'Bittersweet' reunion for Estrada and ailing mother

Story on PAGE A2

Security analysts say JI threat overplayed

THE NONDESCRIPT ramshackle house in Cotabato City yielded some very unusual secrets. Police who stormed the house last week said they found a bomb-maker's compendium, including blasting caps and gunpowder residue, side by side with copies of the Koran and manuals with titles such as 'Jihad in the Philippines."

The government, now on the trail of

SECURITY / A6

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Cory, Sin defend Davide

Pro-Danding solons face mass actions nationwide

By Blanche S. Rivera, Alcuin Papa and the PDI Northern Luzon, Southern Luzon and Visayas Bureaus

FOR THE FIRST time in almost three years, former President Corazon Aquino will be marching in the streets—this time to defend the integrity of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.

Aquino, one of the two leaders instrumental in the People Power uprisings of February 1986 and January 2001, will speak at the protest rally scheduled at 2 p.m. today at the Batasan complex.

The other leader, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, also defended Davide, whom he called "one of the most trusted Filipinos after Edsa II."

Sin, the influential prelate who called on the people to rally to Edsa in 1986 and 2001, called on the Catholic faithful to pray for Davide in this "time of trial."

Last week, the Supreme Court chief was impeached by more than one-third of the members of the House of Representatives, many of them identified with businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., chair of San Miguel Corp.

Aquino and Cojuangco are first cousins.

Lourdes Siytangco, Aquino's spokesperson, confirmed the ex-President's attendance at the rally, which was publicized through a heavy text campaign,

Protest rallies will also be staged across the Visayas, throughout Central Luzon, and in the Southern Tagalog region.

And in San Fernando, Pampanga, a city which hosts two San Miguel complexes, the campaign to boycott SMC products was backed both by business leaders and a congressman.

CORY/ A20

MOTHER'S DAY
It was Mother's Day yesterday for presidential aspirant Raul Roco (right photo) and deposed President Joseph Estrada. Roco dotes on his mother, Nena, during a birthday bash he hosted for his supporters at the Miriam College in Quezon City. Estrada, on the other hand, hugs his mother, Mary, at her home in Greenhills, San Juan. Estrada, who is on trial for plunder, was granted a furlough by the Sandiganbayan. *(Story on Page A2.)*

REUTERS/ERIK ARAZAS

Congress, Supreme Court on collision course

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE ZERO hour for deciding whether the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. within a year breached the Constitution is fast approaching as the House of Representatives endorses the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate this week.

With the completion over the weekend of the verification of the signatures of 93 House members who signed the articles—more than a third of the House members—the complaint moves on to the Senate, igniting an explosive constitutional issue that many fear could spark a constitutional crisis more severe than the one that tested to the limits the stability of institutions during the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada three years ago.

A collision between the Supreme Court and the legislature—two of the three cornerstones of Philippine democracy—appears inevitable as Davide stoutly maintained over the weekend that the complaint accusing him of alleged irregularities in the disbursement of the Judiciary Development Fund "is an unprecedented breach of the doctrine of separation of powers, an attack on judicial independence and abuse of the rules on investigation in aid of legislation." The complaint breaks ground, as it is the first time in the history of Philippine constitutional democracy that a chief justice has been impeached, thereby as-

CONGRESS/ A20

Solution to crisis at hand—De Venecia

By Carlito Pablo and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

A "DIGNIFIED and honorable settlement" is at hand in the Davide impeachment crisis, Speaker Jose de Venecia said yesterday.

"We're 90 percent already there," De Venecia told House reporters.

But a Lakas congressman, Albay Rep. Jose Ma. Sarte Salceda, said he expected the number of signatories to the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to swell this week.

Salceda said 30 Lakas members signed the complaint "not on a party line basis and they would not withdraw because of the party line." He said the Nationalist People's Coalition accounted for only 48 of the 93 signatories to the impeachment case and the 45 non-NPC signees based their decision on the facts of the issue.

But Lakas spokesperson Heherson Alvarez told the RMN radio network that the Lakas members who signed the complaint were "rushed" into supporting the NPC initiative. The NPC, founded by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, is Lakas' partner in the ruling coalition.

Alvarez said the Davide impeachment case was such a "major issue" that the Lakas members should have consulted the party

SOLUTION/ A20

Namfrel warns of anarchy, fraud in May elections

By Blanche S. Rivera
in Manila
and Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

SELECTIVE automation of the 2004 polls will lead to cheating and anarchy, a private election watchdog warned yesterday.

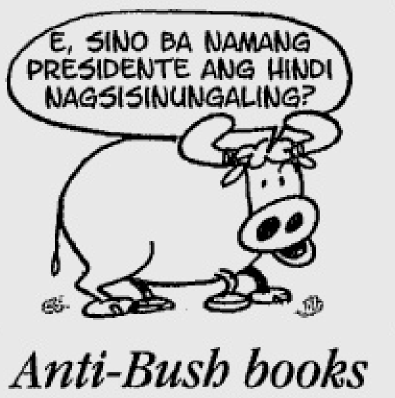
The National Movement for Free Elections said the Commission on Elections' plan to automate only 10 areas "might bring about trending" and leave more space for *dagdag-bawas* (vote padding and shaving) because 70 percent of the country would still be subjected to manual counting.

"Now more than ever we need credible elections because there are so many candidates running," Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

Concepcion said he shared the sentiments of House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. who expressed concern that if the election results do not conform to the public perception, the losing candidates could easily take their protests to the streets and cause political instability.

Around 700 counting machines representing the last batch of delivery are expected to arrive in the country today. Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. was in Korea over the weekend to check on the machines personally, ac-

NAMFREL/ A20



E, SINO BA NAMANG PRESIDENTE ANG HINDI NAGSISINUNGALING?

Anti-Bush books US best sellers

WASHINGTON—A year from the US presidential election, books condemning George W. Bush and his administration are thriving.

Opposition pundits have their political lie detectors fixed permanently on Bush's speeches and statements.

The alarms go off regularly, feeding the anti-Bush books that are riding high on the US best-seller list but without appearing to upset the president's hardcore Republican supporters.

US presidents never get an easy time from the opposition ahead of an election. Just ask the last White House occupant, Bill Clinton, who was impeached over Monica Lewinsky.

ANTI-BUSH/ A9

ATTACK IN IRAQ

No. 2 Pentagon official survives rocket barrage

BAGHDAD—Anti-American forces blasted the Baghdad hotel where US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was staying with a barrage of rockets on Sunday, but the No. 2 Pentagon official survived unharmed, US officials said.

A defiant Wolfowitz vowed that the United States would not be cowed into abandoning Iraq after the brazen attack that he said may have killed one American.

An American soldier was killed and 15 others were wounded in the strike that was considered another setback for the Bush administration, undermining its insistence that the United States was winning the guerrilla war in Iraq despite escalating violence.

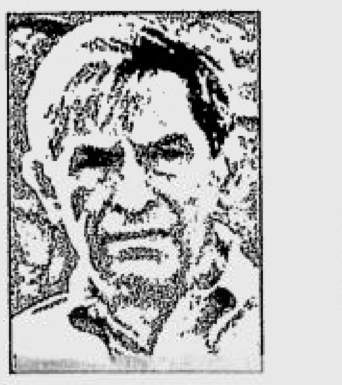
The blast of the rockets hitting the Al Rasheed Hotel at about 6 a.m. (0300 GMT) echoed across the city as a clear, rapid series of explosions. Several guests were thrown from their beds by the impact.

Some people were carried out of the hotel on stretchers and others walked away with blood on them after at least six rockets slammed into the building, destroying rooms on stories below Wolfowitz's on the 12th floor, witnesses said.

Wolfowitz, a major force behind the US invasion of Iraq, was led away by security forces. He appeared composed after descending a stairwell past thickening smoke and blood stains with a fire alarm blaring, witnesses said.

"These terrorist attacks will not deter us from completing our mission, which is to help the Iraqi people free themselves from the types of criminals who did this and protect the American people from this kind of

PENTAGON / A8



A US Army medical vehicle rushes to the Al Rasheed Hotel in Baghdad, where US Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz (inset) was staying, following a rocket attack that killed an American soldier and wounded 15 others on Sunday.

AP

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/27/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

'Bittersweet' meet for Erap, ma

By Norman Bordadora

IT WAS a bittersweet reunion yesterday for Doña Mary Ejercito and her favorite son, former President Joseph Estrada.

They wept as they embraced at the entrance to the Ejercito matriarch's home on Kennedy Street in posh North Greenhills, San Juan at about 10 a.m.

It was the first time that mother and son had seen each other since April, when Doña Mary visited the ex-President on his 66th birthday at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, where he used to be detained.

San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito quoted his father as telling the frail 98-year-old: "Do you eat on time? You should eat well, so we can be together longer."

"It's a happy occasion for the family, although we know that it will be only for a while," Ejercito told the INQUIRER.

36 hours

The Sandiganbayan special division trying Estrada for plunder had given him a 36-hour liberty pass after Dr. Larry Hocson, his nephew and family doctor, testified that Doña Mary was in "very unstable" condition.

"At her age, anything can happen," said Hocson. Mrs. Ejercito was recently confined at the San Juan Medical Center for a heavy cough, which Hocson said was a symptom of pneumonia.

The physician added that the old woman had been bedridden since her discharge from the hospital on Oct. 8. She had developed three abdominal aneurysms, any one of which could burst at any moment and end her life within minutes, Hocson said.

This delicate condition was the reason that Estrada did not leave Camp Capinpin in Tanay—where he is currently being held—at exactly 5 a.m. when the pass took effect. Publicist Ferdinand Ramos said Doña Mary would have been unduly excited, had she seen her son as soon as she woke up.

More rest

Former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada said his father convinced Doña Mary to get some more rest by retiring with her to her room soon after his arrival.

"It would have been much better if the court allowed my father at least a week out of prison," the former mayor told reporters outside the house. "This is just too short a time for the family to be with him."

Jinggoy said the family would have the usual Sunday get-together at lunch and dinner. "This is just more special because my father is here," he said.

A Mass was also slated at 6 p.m.

The ex-President, who has been detained for two years and seven months, is also scheduled to undergo medical examinations for lower back and joint pains during the last six hours of his furlough. He is due back at Camp Capinpin before nightfall today.

No interviews

Known for giving a news conference every chance he gets, Estrada abided by the Sandigan's instruction not to give interviews or any media statement. Apart from the trip to the hospital, he was also under strict orders to remain in his mother's house.

Only a few media men were allowed inside to get video footage and sound bites of the mother-and-son reunion.

Estrada arrived by helicopter, which landed at a nearby vacant lot on Ortigas Avenue, where some 50 supporters were waiting for a glimpse of him. Appearing relaxed in khaki jacket and pants, he waved at them from a black SUV that carried him into the posh neighborhood.

He was escorted by Army Brig. Gen. Prospero Noble and a team of more than 60 black-clad policemen.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Estrada was now being accorded treatment befitting a former head of state.

In an interview over dzBB radio, Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo had been "concerned with the condition of the former president," contrary to views that she had been "making life difficult" for Estrada.

"She has been generous in giving (privileges) to the former president consistent with the rules of court," the spokesperson said, noting that Ms Macapagal did not protest Estrada's brief release yesterday. The reunion had "boosted (Estrada's) morale," Bunye said.

In fact, Bunye said, should the Sandigan decide to approve Estrada's plea for house arrest, Malacañang would pose no objections.

With Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and reports from Reuters, AP, Agence France-Presse

WHAT does it take to move an ex-President? Apparently plenty if you're Joseph Estrada and you're going to visit your mother.

RUDY ESPERAS

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'Now it's Angara pitting Pimentel against Drilon'

By Christine O. Avendaño

IT SEEMS like the season for coup rumors in the Senate once again.

There is talk of yet another plot to wrest the Senate presidency from Franklin Drilon, this one supposedly engineered by opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara.

It is said that Angara wants fellow opposition Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. to take over the top Senate post.

Drilon himself bared the alleged plot yesterday as he told the INQUIRER that he has accepted fellow majority Sen. Manuel Villar Jr.'s explanation about an earlier coup rumor.

Villar, leader of the so-called Wednesday Group in the Upper House, said he wasn't involved in any plot to unseat Drilon.

In a phone interview, the embattled Senate president said a congressman had informed him about the latest plans for a power-grab.

"A congressman told me that Demari Raval, a consultant for Angara, was spreading talk (in the Lower House) of a coup in the Senate with Angara putting up Pimentel against me," said Drilon.

Angara denied he was behind any such plot. "Somebody is circulating gossip and false stories," he said.

Also in a phone interview, Angara said the recent rumors were merely a reflection of the "uncertain" times. "Had this been a time when people were more confident, these things would be laughed off."

Pimentel also said he was "not privy to any moves" to unseat Drilon.

"And he (Drilon) should not dignify the rumors," Pimentel told the INQUIRER. "It doesn't become him or his office."

Drilon was confident that he continues to enjoy the support of the 22-member Senate's majority.

Contenders for the Senate presidency would need 13 votes to unseat Drilon. There are currently 12 senators belonging to the majority bloc, against 10 from the minority.

Asked for the probable basis for the coup rumors, Drilon could only surmise that they had to do with the 2004 elections being just around the corner.

One of the rumors' two sources yesterday told the INQUIRER that no plot of the sort could take off given the "slim" chance of some senators in the majority and minority blocs mending "very deep differences."

NPA rebels, military clash; 10 killed, 5 hurt

By Christian V. Esguerra

AT LEAST 10 people, including four soldiers, were killed and five others were wounded when about 30 guerrillas of the communist New People's Army ambushed an Army patrol in Isabela on Saturday.

A police report said yesterday that an Army platoon was crossing the river at Sitio Corawitan in Barangay Binatug, San Mariano town, when they were attacked by NPA rebels at around 8:45 a.m., setting off a gun battle that lasted for six hours.

Six NPA guerrillas were slain in the fighting although their bodies were dragged off by their comrades. Their names were also not available.

The report by the Philippine National Police directorate for operations identified the slain troopers as Sgt. Marcelino Alcantara, Cpl. Leonardo Sedol, and Privates Alfonso Carino and Edie Cabildo. Wounded were Corporals Virgilio Manabat, Gabriel Gellena and Wilfredo Logronio, and Privates Sozimo Vallo and a certain Verzola.

Army reinforcements, backed by two attack helicopters, were hunting the guerrillas in Isabela, said Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Joselito Kakilala.

In another development, two regional communist insurgency leaders were arrested in a raid in the southern town of San Luis in Agusan del Sur province on Saturday, the military said.

Alleged district guerrilla chief Dionisio Micabalo and his deputy Lorna Songahid were arrested in a raid which also netted a pistol and assorted computer and communications equipment, the military said in a statement. *With reports from AP, AFP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

After Cuneta fest, FPJ still needs some convincing

LOVE
SUPORT
FPJ
MAR

HOW QUICKLY THEY TURN ...
An unidentified Marcos loyalist shows her true colors during Saturday's bash for actor Fernando Poe Jr., who did or did not disappoint those awaiting his decision on next year's presidential race, depending on one's thoughts on the matter.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Christine O. Avendaño, Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr. and Martin P. Marfil

MOVIE actor Fernando Poe Jr. will hold a series of consultative meetings in key cities around the country in the next two weeks to gauge the public pulse before deciding whether to run for the presidency in next year's polls.

The actor's appearance Saturday before a crowd of supporters at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City marked the beginning of the series of consultations he would be making, an opposition senator said yesterday.

"He (Poe) would go to Cebu, Baguio and Dipolog cities in the next two weeks," Sen. Vicente Sotto III, who has been designated by Poe as his spokesperson, said in a phone interview.

Sotto said he would announce after All Soul's Day on Nov. 2 whether Poe would make himself available as the presidential candidate of the united opposition in the 2004 elections.

The senator was supposed to announce Poe's political plans last week but deferred it because that the latter wanted more time to hold consultative meetings with groups clamoring for his candidacy.

Sotto, an old friend of Poe's in the movie industry, said if ever Poe decides to join the race, "it will be because of the people". "So that in case he wins chosen, he will not be beholden to any politician or vested interest."

Sotto said Poe did not announce his plans during the first anniversary of the Filipinos for Peace, Justice and Prosperity Movement (FPJPM) because the latter was not expected to do so in the first place.

Police estimated the crowd that attended the event at between 9,000 to 12,000.

In last Saturday's FPJPM anniversary, Sotto said that Poe had the chance to meet and talk with the people behind the movement.

He said Poe also went to see the group to "thank them for their confidence and trust in him."

Teary-eyed

FPJPM officials presented to a teary-eyed action star documents containing two million signatures urging Poe to run.

The signatures, officials of the group said, were collected nationwide over the past year. Most of the signatories were from Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog and Pangasinan.

But administration Sen. Robert Barbers was "99.9 percent sure" that Poe will not run after the latter failed to make the announcement in last Saturday's affair.

"The number of people who attended the affair coupled by the pomp and pageantry whipped up by his supporters last Saturday were enough to churn up FPJ's emotions in order to give in to their request. However, it never happened," Barbers said in a statement.

'A failure'

Barbers also accused some members of the opposition of using Poe to wrest power from the present administration—an indication, he said, that the opposition cannot find a legitimate standard-bearer to pit against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I'm sure he would be a failure," said Rep. Raul Gonzales, an ally of Ms Macapagal, pointing out that Poe has never served in government.

Lakas spokesperson Heherson Alvarez yesterday dared Poe to run first for barangay captain before taking a shot at the highest position in the land.

In an interview with RMN radio, Alvarez said the country needs a president who has at least the capability and experience to look after the country's interests.

"If a presidential candidate has never served at least as a barangay captain or councilor, where will you get the experience?" he said.

But supporters of the action star were unfazed, saying they would continue to press their idol to run for the presidency.

Boots Cadsawan, FPJPM president, said the group would hold a meeting to map out their plans for the coming days.

"We still have until Jan. 2...We will not stop until he decides to run,"Cadsawan said, referring to the deadline for the filing of candidacies.

Cadsawan's group was instrumental in gathering the two million signatures urging Poe to run.

Although Poe did not announce that he would be running for president, Cadsawan was still hopeful the actor would make a decision "soon."

In case he wins, Poe would be the second movie star after former president Joseph Estrada to occupy Malacañang.

Estrada won a landslide victory in 1998, only to be toppled in a military-backed popular revolt less than three years later following a tumultuous rule tainted by corruption allegations and economic drift.

Last week, local share prices dove on news that Poe, a high school dropout who has consistently been one of the top five preferred candidates cited in recent national surveys, was about to declare his candidacy.

Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities said the likelihood of FPJ becoming a presidential candidate has spooked the markets.

"That has fueled pessimism and the market is likely to trade sideways with a downward bias until it has fully discounted FPJ's (possible) candidacy," Aguila said. *With an AFP report*

Bangko Sentral sets 'name-and-shame' drive vs erring banks

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas will reveal to the public the names of erring banks as part of ongoing efforts to introduce increased transparency and discipline in its regulatory practices.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the policy-making Monetary Board has resolved to disclose the identities of banks violating BSP rules and regulations to guide the public in their decisions on where to put their money.

Banks found violating foreign exchange regulations or those rampantly engaging in insider lending would be exposed to the public but only once the Monetary Board has firmed up the guidelines for its name-and-shame campaign.

The only time the central bank exposed erring banks was in August 2001 when it disclosed the names of nine lenders found violating foreign exchange rules at a time when the peso was volatile.

"It is part of our good government, market transparency and consumer education program. This is standard procedure in the United States and other countries. At one time, we have to let peer pressure come into play," Reyes said.

But monetary authorities, according to Reyes, would wait for a better time to move into a regime of full disclosure. In the next five years, full transparency could be better implemented, he said.

A name-and-shame campaign could have repercussions on banks suffering from the lingering effects of the Asian financial crisis when bad loans swelled after borrowers were unable to repay their debts.

Reyes said banks would have to first clean up their billions of pesos in non-performing loans and soured assets. Banks have been given until April 2005 to avail themselves of tax incentives under the Special Purpose Vehicle Act to get rid of about P500 billion in non-performing loans and assets.

"We have to eventually move towards market transparency to instill discipline in the financial system. But at this time, the BSP is not yet ready. The banking system is not fully vibrant," said the BSP deputy governor.

Reyes said the central bank has started an information campaign to educate the public as well as policymakers and lawmakers on the intricacies of the banking system.

Lorenzo pushes novel way to clean up Laguna Lake

AGRICULTURE Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr. wants to open the Napindan Channel in Taguig to allow seawater from Manila Bay to flow into Laguna Lake.

"Experts say that seawater has a disinfecting effect and can rejuvenate Laguna Lake, enhancing the growth of its fish and aquatic resources and the overall productivity of the area," Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo yesterday directed the Laguna Lake Development Authority to coordinate with the Metro Manila Development Authority for the opening of the Napindan Channel.

He said that since seawater has a "disinfecting effect" on the lake, this would help remove the "muddy taste" from *bangus* and *tilapia* cultivated in its water.

Lorenzo said that because the Napindan Channel is often shut at the onset of the rainy season as a flood prevention measure, the lake experiences an overproduction of algae, causing *bangus* and *tilapia* grown in the area to have a "muddy taste."

"Proper scheduling of the opening and closing of the channel will accrue to a win-win solution for both Laguna lake fishers and Metro Manila residents during the rainy months," he explained.

The Laguna provincial government recently embarked on a plan to enhance and unify the environment management systems of its 29 towns, including those around the lake.

Aside from the offer of assistance from the Swedish International Development Agency, the provincial environment and natural resource office also gets support from Global Linkages Foundation for the Filipino Youth.

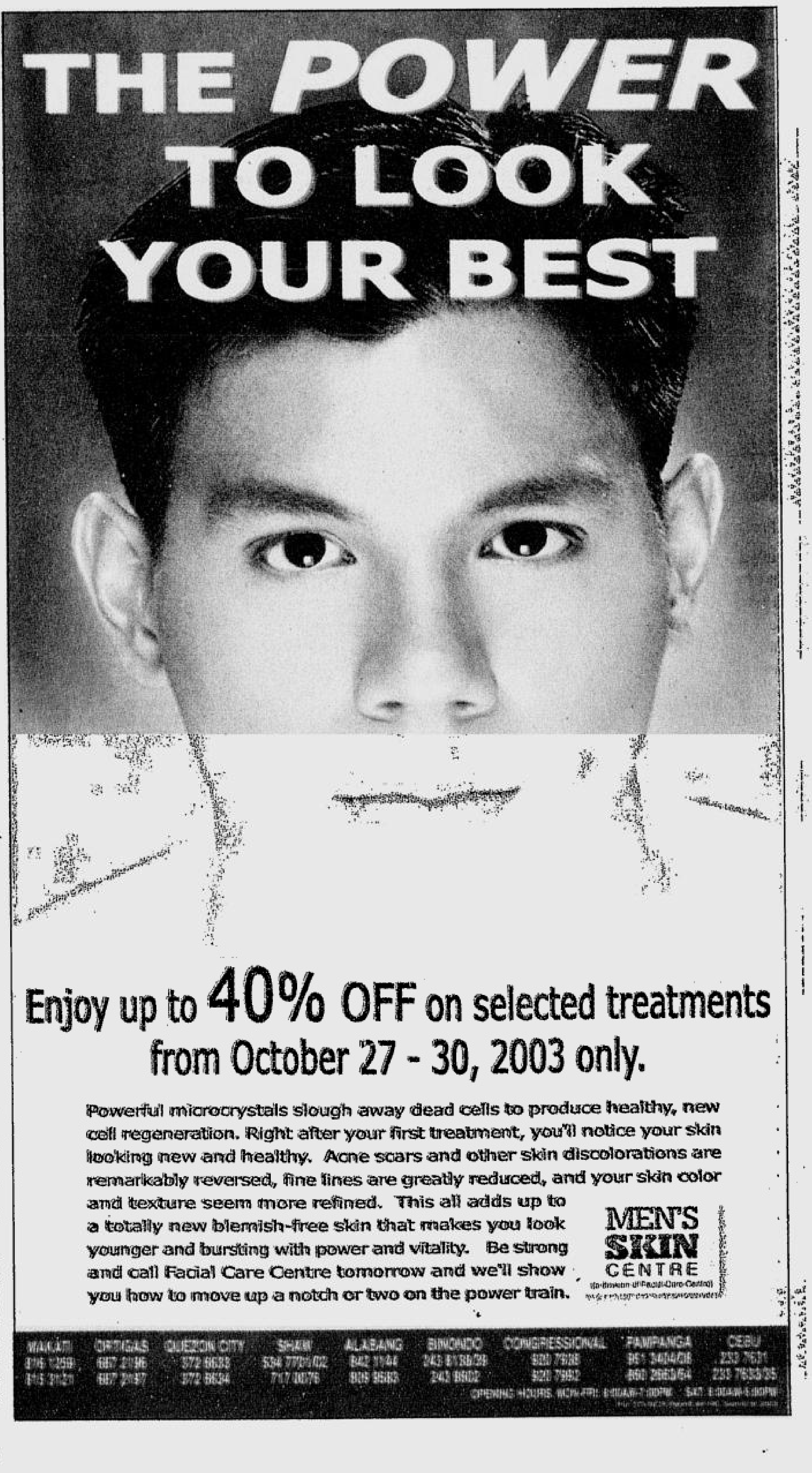
"We seek to enhance these environment management systems while at the same time raise the consciousness of the youth about the environment concerns facing the province," said Laguna ENRO Guillermo Trinidad.

"Laguna Lake is under the jurisdiction of the LLDA but the province, especially the towns around it is responsible for its continued survival," Trinidad said.

The DA supports the clamor of small fisherfolk to be granted the same access to fishing rights and privileges at Laguna Lake given to large fishpen operators but warned that aquaculture in the country's biggest freshwater lake should be further regulated to prevent overfishing.

"By forming themselves into groups or cooperatives, small fisherfolk could viably invest in Laguna de Bay by putting up *bangus* or *tilapia* fish cages, and thus benefit from the bounties of the lake," Lorenzo said.

He said the lake offers opportunities for small fishers even during periods of algae bloom when *bangus* (milkfish) have been off-taste, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources found buyers in Taiwan for the foul-tasting catch for use as fish bait in catching tuna. *Norman Bordadora*



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MEN'S SKIN CENTRE

MAKATI ORTIGAS QUEZON CITY SHAW ALABANG BINONDO CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA CEBU

Papal Nuncio won't be deterred from visiting Basilan

Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

BASILAN—Strong winds and an angry sea failed to discourage the Most Reverend Antonio Franco, Papal Nuncio to the Philippines, from visiting this once-dreaded province.

"While we were traveling, I was so scared because of the big waves. I don't know if the Apostolic Nuncio felt the same," said Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad. "When I sighted Malamawi Island, I said congratulations, we made it and we were still alive."

The inclement weather was nothing compared with what the Catholic faithful on the island had gone through in the past four years, the papal nuncio said upon arrival on Friday.

En route to the center of Isabela town, Franco reached out intermittently from his vehicle and offered his hand to Christian and Muslim women and children.

He was repeatedly advised against coming here, he told the Inquirer. "Many people told me don't go, but I always said I wanted to," he said in Spanish.

Addressing Basileños at the Sta. Isabel Cathedral, Franco said: "My heart is full of joy and I am grateful to the Lord for the grace He has given me ... to come finally to Isabela City and to Basilan."

He assured them that Pope John Paul II has been "closely monitoring the sufferings of Basileños from violence and terror."

And since he became papal nuncio, Franco said, the island, "especially the Church and the people," had also been on his mind. "My prayers and my thoughts are for you."

He urged them to renew their own faith, intensify evangelization and "become authentic witnesses to the Church's dialogue for peace with other faiths and cultures." If they entrusted their lives to the Lord, Franco said, they could create a "condition of peace, understanding and readiness to forgive and accept forgiveness."

Franco was determined to make the most of his two-day pastoral visit.

He went to the Catholic churches in Matarling in Lantawan, Begang in Isabela City, the remote villages of Tumahubong, Sumisip and Lamitan.

At St. Peter's in Lamitan, which was destroyed by military strikes on June 2, 2001, some of the churchgoers cried while listening to Franco's homily.

After the mass, he inspected the ongoing massive repairs.

Anita Dimano, 45, said she was "very happy" to learn that the Vatican had not forgotten them. "We are strong," she said, "but we feel that (Franco's) presence and message of love for Lamitenos have made us stronger."

Leticia Agustin Adjula, who converted to Islam when she married a Muslim, made sure she would see the Pope's envoy. "My mother and my teacher once told me that when a papal nuncio visited, he lifted everyone's spirits," she said. "Now I know it's true."

Ramadan to begin today after moon wasn't sighted

COTABATO CITY—Seven million Muslims in the country start the 30-day Ramadan fasting today, the Islamic Dahrul Ifta or House of Opinion declared Saturday night.

Ustadz Omar Pasigan, Muslim Mindanao's newly installed mufti or religious leader, officially proclaimed: "Efforts at sighting the moon from strategic points in the south failed on the 29th of the lunar month of Sa'ban (Saturday night), and so the fasting will start on Monday."

All over the world, over one billion more Muslims will likewise observe the tradition instituted by the Prophet Muhammad. During the whole of Ramadan, or the ninth month of the lunar-based Islamic Hijera calendar, they will abstain from food, drink and sex from dawn to dusk.

Exempted from fasting are pregnant, breast-feeding and menstruating women; the sick, the elderly and children below the age of puberty.

Fasting is an ancient religious tradition attributed to biblical prophets and their followers.

In his book, "Islam in the Bible," the American scholar Thomas McElwain, wrote: "Though unlegislated, (fasting was) a basic practice throughout the Bible—from Deuteronomy to the Gospels." On the other hand, Islam had "legislated" fasting because through it people "learn self-restraint and earn good health," McElwain noted, quoting both the Koran and St. Matthew's gospel.

He also pointed to fasting in various periods of history as mentioned in at least 20 passages of the Christian Bible. *Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Reyes app't hailed, panned

POLICE officials have hailed the appointment of former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes as chief of the police's elite anti-kidnapping unit, even as they quashed speculations it was a sign President Macapagal-Arroyo had lost trust in the police leadership.

The President named Reyes to head the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) unit and the Anti-Kidnapping Task Force, in addition to keeping his current posting as ambassador-at-large for counter-terrorism.

"That's a good move because there will be someone who will orchestrate (all anti-kidnapping efforts)," Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. told reporters in an interview on Friday.

"Secretary Reyes' designation is a welcome development the PNP would support. Kidnapping for ransom is a complex problem that entails unified action by all government agencies and the private sector," said Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, police information officer.

But the militant group Pamalakaya questioned Reyes' appointment anew, saying the administration was making an "authoritarian monster" of the former defense chief.

Reyes resigned as defense secretary last Aug. 29, one month after disgruntled junior military officers who staged the failed Oakwood mutiny had demanded his head after accusing him of being behind the bombings in Mindanao and the sale of arms to rebels.

"This is extremely dangerous. Both military and police powers are bestowed on ex-defense secretary Reyes, making him the most powerful state official in the Macapagal government," Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said in a statement.

Bataoil brushed off speculation Reyes' appointment was an indication the President had lost her confidence in the police leadership's ability to lick the kidnapping problem.

"No, we view it as a recognition of the complexity of the KFR problem. We view it instead as a strong support for the PNP," he said.

Malacañang officials had admitted that Reyes' appointment as anti-kidnapping czar was an offshoot of businessmen's clamor for drastic action against kidnap-for-ransom syndicates. *TJ Burgonio*

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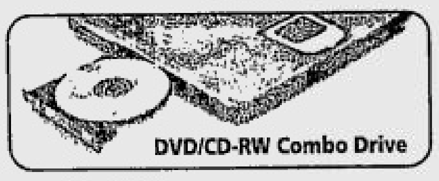

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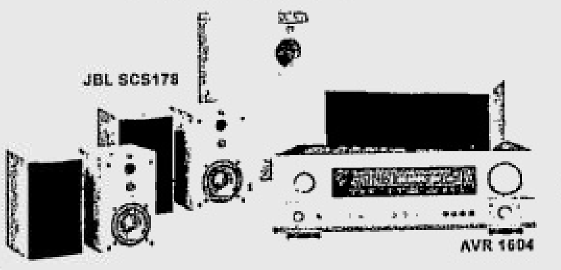

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Bigger axe to fall on CIDG, chief says

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CRIMINAL Investigation and Detection Group would be hard hit in the massive revamp to be undertaken by the Philippine National Police, a top CIDG official said yesterday.

CIDG chief Eduardo Matillano said the CIDG's Anti-Transnational Crime Division would be most affected by the "intense cleansing" after some of its officials and operatives were implicated in at least two cases of kidnap-for-ransom incidents involving P20 million.

Two CIDG officials, Supt. Efren Valeriano and Senior Insp. Romeo Odrada, and three CIDG agents are are in the process of being dismissed for their alleged involvement in criminal activities.

Matillano said he was looking for "honest and able" officers to replace Valeriano and Odrada.

"The Anti-Transnational Crime Division is very crucial to the CIDG and the PNP," he told the INQUIRER. "We can't afford to have officials with questionable characters there," he said.

Valeriano allegedly led a group of CIDG operatives in arresting businessman Philip King Chien on the strength of a purportedly bogus warrant and demanded P10 million for Chien's release last month.

Earlier this month, Odrada and his men allegedly used the same modus operandi to force Dr. Frank Aragon and some friends to give them P5 million worth of jewelry and close to P1 million in cash for their release.

The two incidents forced Matillano to sack the CIDG officials. Their unit is now headed by Senior Supt. Romeo Tambunqui who is also chief of the CIDG's operations division.

PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. on Friday warned that policemen involved in illegal activities would be the first to go in the planned reshuffle.

"If a policeman is involved in kidnapping," he told reporters, "he's a criminal and he should be treated as such."

Gross inefficiency which had tarnished the image of the PNP in the past three months would also be a basis for relief, according to Ebdane.

Two weeks ago, negligence by operatives of the CIDG's Office of Businessmen's Concerns enabled an Abu Sayyaf detainee to kill three policemen and wound three others while attempting to escape from Camp Crame.

Wanted: Indigenous cops

THE NATIONAL Police Commission is encouraging more indigenous peoples to join the police force.

Napolcom, which held entrance and promotion exams for police yesterday, reminded members of cultural minority groups that they could avail of "bonus points" and a height waiver if they want to join the force.

Commissioner Linda Hornilla, in a statement, said an additional five points would be given to members of cultural minority groups or tribes who take the Napolcom-administered police exams.

The passing grade in the exam is 70 percent.

Hornilla said a height requirement waiver would be issued to applicants who present a certificate of confirmation from the Office of Muslim Affairs (OMA) or the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) that they belong to indigenous groups.

Police hopefuls who are not part of cultural minority groups should be 5'4" in height if they are male, or 5'2" if female.

Napolcom may also grant waivers for weight and educational attainment to applicants who possess special qualifications, skills or attributes useful to the Philippine National Police, Hornilla said. *Margaux Ortiz*

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Security analysts say JI threat overplayed

From page A1

30 suspected terrorists it says escaped before the raid, maintains the hideout was used by the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) regional network, which has been blamed for last year's devastating Bali bombs and linked to the al-Qaida terror group.

Some currency analysts said the peso's fall to two-month lows last week was partly on worries the Jemaah Islamiyah was becoming a major threat.

But is it really?

There has been no big terror attack in Metro Manila since a series of bombings in December 2000, which were linked to Jemaah Islamiyah. There has also been no major violence in the country since a bomb ripped through a crowded market in South Cotabato in May, killing nine people and wounding 41 others.

If the Jemaah Islamiyah is targeting the Philippines, it certainly has not been very successful, according to some security experts and analysts.

They conclude the Jemaah Islamiyah threat, while real, is not as big as it used to be and is being played up to the full by the military and the government in a bid to win US military aid.

"A lot of it has been overplayed," said one foreign analyst, who asked not to be identified. "If you look at whether the JI is causing terror in the Philippines, then the answer is no."

'Sinister plans'

Nevertheless, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced Friday the government was "elevating the JI into our national threat spectrum," a day after the Philippines won a highly coveted seat on the UN Security Council.

"We have decided to update our priorities," she said. "The JI's sinister plans are both deadly and far-ranging, both intended to threaten our country and sow fear in the region."

On Thursday, Ms Macapagal paraded the latest catch in the war on terror—Indonesian Taufek Refke, who the government says is Jemaah Islamiyah's finance officer in Mindanao and provider of information leading to the raid on the house in Cotabato City.

No one disputes that Mindanao, a sprawling area that is home to about five million Muslims in the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic country, is a hotbed of militancy. The government has been fighting four Moro rebel groups there for years, including the Abu Sayyaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). A porous sea border with Indonesia means there is minimal state control over who comes and goes.

More questionable is the degree to which the Jemaah Islamiyah has kept its grip in Mindanao since 2000, when government troops overran MILF training camps believed to have been used by JI terrorists.

Running out of friends?

One reason behind the government's recent success may be that Mindanao is no longer such a friendly environment for the Jemaah Islamiyah.

The death earlier this year of elderly MILF leader Salamat Hashim and his replacement by the more moderate Ebrahim Murad may have helped curb elements sympathetic to Jemaah Islamiyah within the rebel group that is now focusing on peace talks with the government.

Andrew Tan, a Singapore-based security expert, said while Jemaah Islamiyah remained a major threat throughout Southeast Asia, its Philippine operations had likely been weakened.

"The prospects for the JI in Mindanao have diminished because of (Salamat) Hashim's death," he said.

The shift could help explain the mysterious killing of suspected Jemaah Islamiyah bomb maker Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi this month.

Authorities said they killed the fugitive in a shoot-out, but there are persistent reports he had been betrayed by a Moro rebel group who handed him over to government forces.

Whatever the reasons, the timing of the killing just days before US President George W. Bush visited Manila raised suspicion about the authorities' tactics and information.

"The timing was just quite unbelievable," said the foreign analyst. "They (the military) are under pressure to show how active they are and how well they are doing."

The Cotabato City police chief was sacked after saying evidence found in the raid was planted. The city's mayor said the house did not appear to have been used in months.

Reuters

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 27, 2003
30th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 8:12-17
Gospel: Lk 13:10-17

Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath and a crippled woman was there. An evil spirit had kept her bent for eighteen years so that she could not straighten up at all. On seeing her, Jesus called her and said, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." Then he laid his hands upon her and immediately she was made straight and praised God.

But the ruler of the synagogue was indignant because Jesus had performed this healing on the Sabbath day and he said to the people, "There are six days in which to work; come on those days to be healed and not on the Sabbath."

But the Lord replied, "You hypocrites! Everyone of you unties his ox or his donkey on the Sabbath and leads it out of the barn to give it water. And here you have a daughter of Abraham whom Satan had bound for eighteen years. Should she not be freed from her bonds on the Sabbath?"

When Jesus said this, all his opponents felt ashamed. But the people rejoiced at the many wonders that happened through him.

Commentary

"Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." The word "untie" was used by the Jews to express that someone's sin or penalty was canceled. It also meant freeing an animal from its yoke. Jesus is the one who frees the human person and invites us to follow his example. Another word for salvation in the bible is liberation. It is both liberation from and liberation to. It is liberation from whatever enslaves and dehumanizes a person such as sickness, ignorance, oppression and most of all sin. It is liberation to something positive that makes a person fully human and alive.

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By R. B. Vera

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PAL returns to Malaysia

THE COUNTRY'S national flag carrier resumed direct flights to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday, five years after operational and financial problems forced Philippine Airlines to suspend the service.

"PAL is gradually returning to its core markets and KL is an important part of that modest expansion," airline president Avelino Zapanta said in a company statement.

PAL will fly Boeing 737-300 jets from Manila to Kuala Lumpur four times weekly—on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday—with return flights the following day.

The resumption of flights was originally scheduled in May, but was postponed after the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) discouraged air travel.

Kuala Lumpur is PAL's 23rd international destination and its fifth in Southeast Asia.

PAL first flew to Kuala Lumpur in 1977, but the service was suspended in June 1998 after operational and financial difficulties forced the airline to restructure its route network.

PAL's return is expected to boost two-way traffic between the Philippines and Malaysia, which is forecast to expand by an average of five percent annually, the airline said.

AP, AFP

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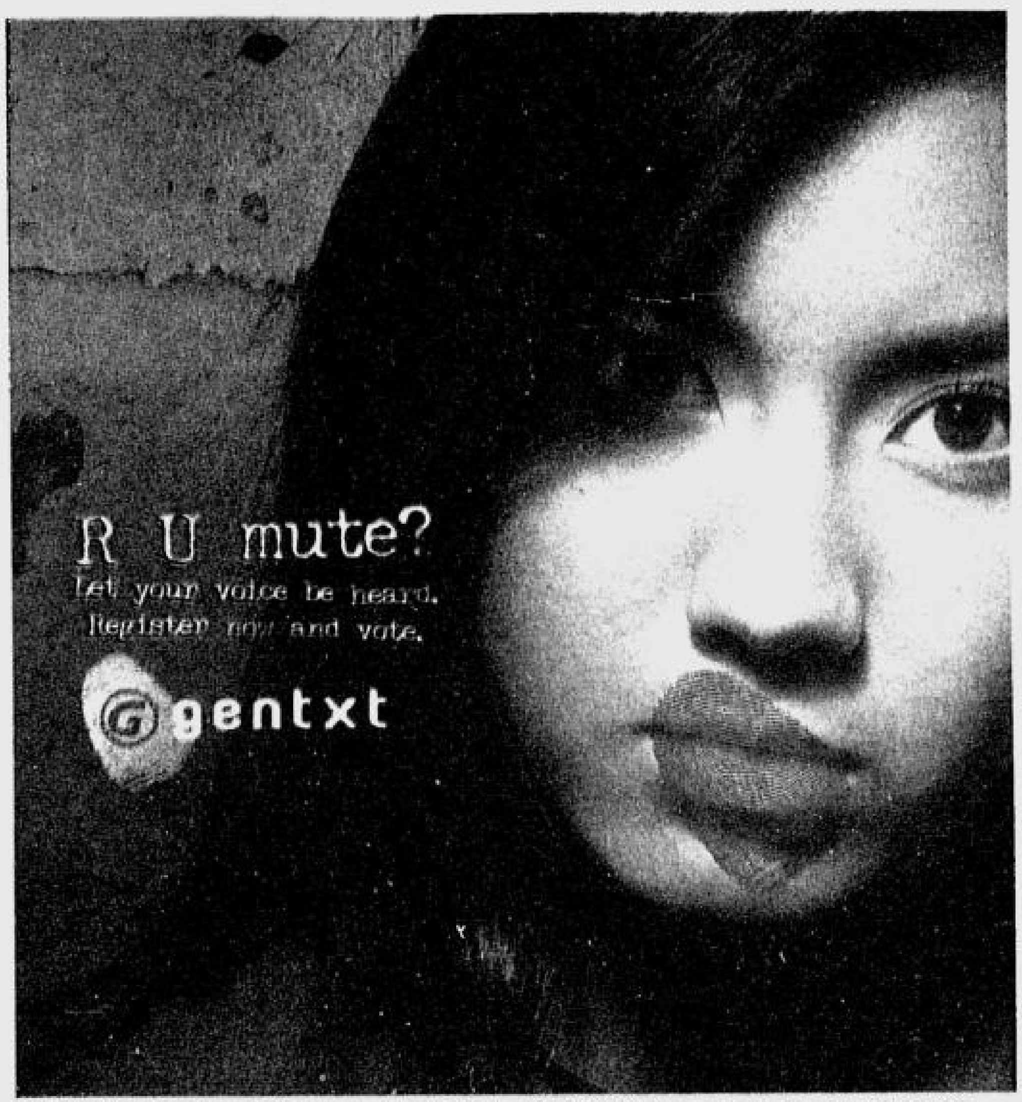
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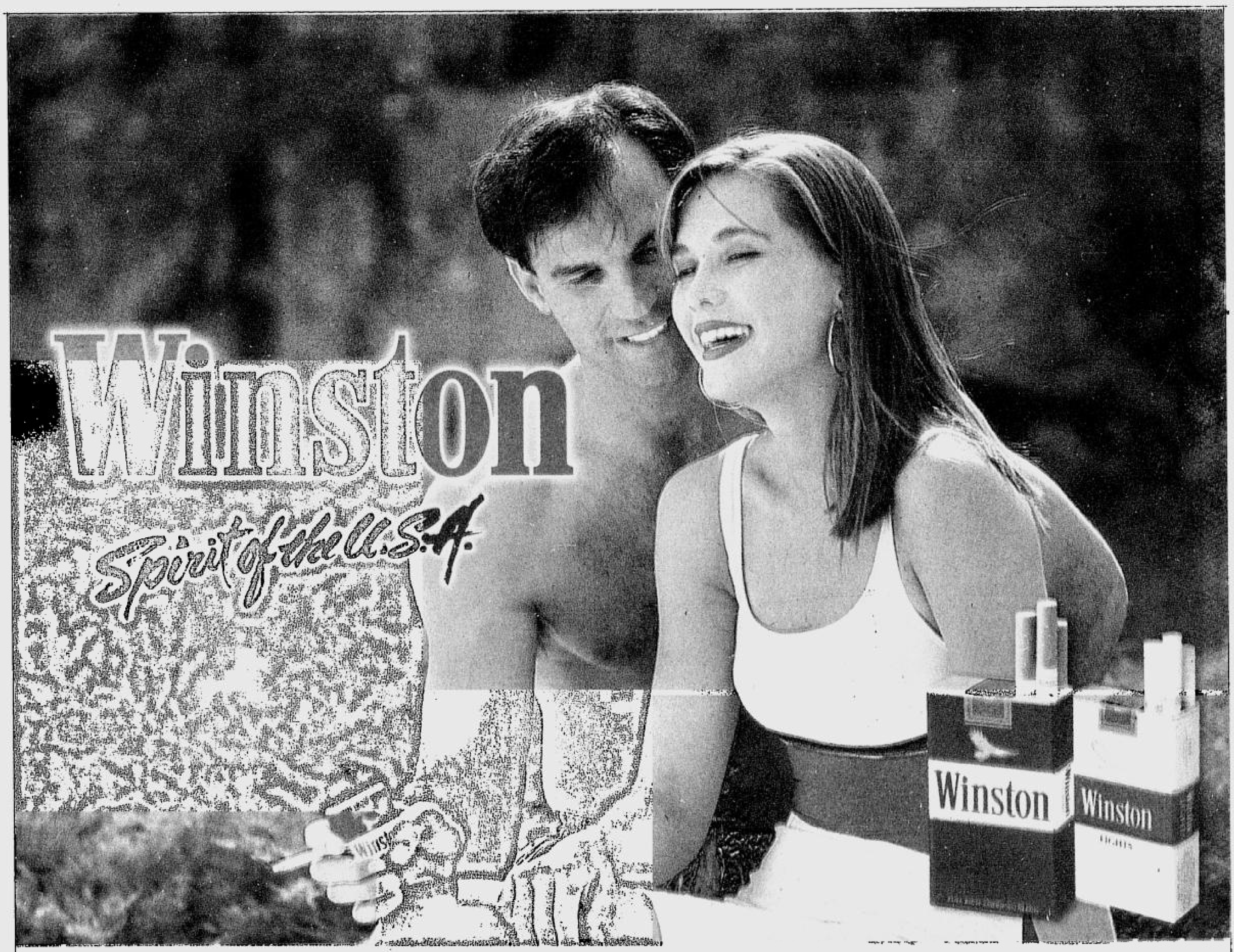

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Pentagon official survives attack

From page A1

terrorism," Wolfowitz told reporters hours after the attack.

An unshaven and tired-looking Wolfowitz, wearing a blazer and open-necked shirt, said he received a report that an American had been killed.

US military officials later confirmed that the lone fatality was an American soldier.

Seven American civilians were also wounded, along with four US military personnel and four civilians from other countries in the US-led coalition occupying Iraq.

Iraqi security guards exchanged gunfire with the attackers and wounded two of them, according to Capt. Charles Steward, spokesperson for the 1st Armored Division. He did not know if anyone had been detained.

Injuries were generally minor and caused by flying debris and possible smoke inhalation, he said.

"We have unconfirmed reports of 15 wounded," another military official said.

Wolfowitz was paying his second visit to Iraq in three months and had stressed the need to speed up the formation of Iraqi security forces.

Members of his traveling party, who had been dressing ahead of a breakfast meeting, calmly walked down stairs and gathered in the lobby before exiting the building with about 200 people, including journalists and US civilian contractors. In one corridor, survivors waded calf-deep through water from a burst pipe.

The 11th-floor room in which an American may have died was destroyed, according to a journalist who saw the devastation. Part of the ceiling collapsed, the door was blown off, a hole was punched in the wall and smoke poured from the room.

Lucky to survive

Escalating guerrilla violence in Iraq has eroded President George W. Bush's popularity among Americans worried at the rising US death toll. Wolfowitz's boss, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, warned earlier this month that the United States faced a "long, hard slog" in Iraq.

Guerrilla attacks have targeted the United Nations, the Jordanian Embassy and a hotel used by US media. The attack on the Al Rasheed was the second in a month on the hotel. Attacks on the US military in Iraq have killed more than 100 troops since Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

On Sunday, a US military spokesperson, Sgt. Danny Martin, said six to eight rockets hit the west side of the hotel.

Steve Marney, a journalist with Middle East Broadcasting based in Dubai, said the two ninth-floor rooms on either side of his were completely destroyed by the attack.

"I was a very lucky person. The rooms on both sides of me were hit," he said. "It threw me out of bed." He said the hallway was full of smoke and "it was pretty hard to see."

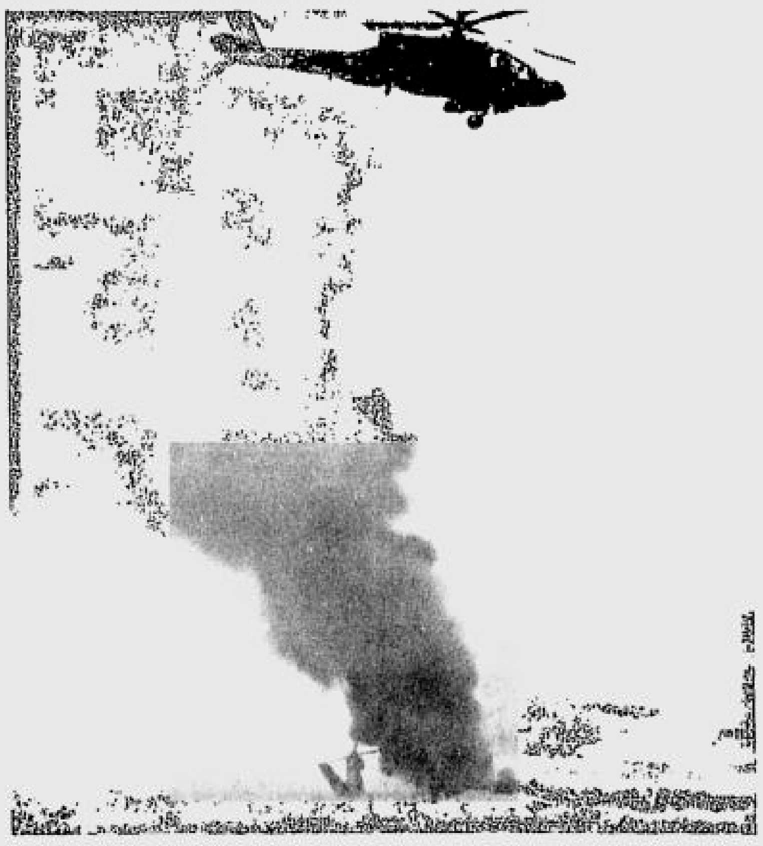
The hotel is part of a compound on the west bank of the Tigris River used by the US-led administration. It is in a fortified complex that includes palaces built by deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

A Reuters photographer saw five impact holes on the west side of the hotel. He said three of the rockets appeared to have gone through the wall, the others through windows.

The whole area was sealed off and US military helicopters circled the building.

On Saturday, Iraqi guerrillas fired rocket-propelled grenades at a Black Hawk helicopter which came down near Tikrit, wounding one American soldier. Wolfowitz had left Tikrit by helicopter for Kirkuk just hours earlier.

Wolfowitz said he was not changing his scheduled events following the attack. He faces a full day of meetings in Baghdad and a patrol of the city with a military unit before leaving for Washington on Sunday. *Reuters*



A US Apache gunship flies around a burning Black Hawk helicopter, which was shot down in Tikrit, Iraq, on Saturday. AP

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Anti-Bush books US best sellers

From page A1

But now the gloves are off.

At a demonstration against the Iraq war in Washington on Saturday, many of the thousands of protesters wore a badge proclaiming "When Clinton Lied, Nobody Died." The current Democratic presidential front-runner, Howard Dean, regularly accuses Bush of lying to the nation.

The public appears to be loving the polemics.

Oscar-winning documentary

Michael Moore's book "Dude, Where's My Country" has led the best sellers since it was released this month. Publishers expect it to have a similar success to his last book about the US ruling classes, "Stupid White Men," and his recent Oscar-winning documentary against the American gun culture, "Bowling for Columbine."

This time Moore looks into the common points of the families of Bush and his al-Qaida rival, Osama bin Laden, and the civil liberties that have been eroded in the name of the war on terrorism.

Moore, who says he supports Democrat contender Wesley Clark, makes no attempt to hide the political objective of his book. "There is probably no greater imperative facing the nation than the defeat of George W. Bush in the 2004 election."

Lying liars

"Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right," by satirist Al Franken, is No. 3 on the best-seller list and has also caused controversy since it came out in August.

The book condemns the media that Franken says supports the US Right. Fox News television, which uses the slogan "Fair and Balanced," failed in an attempt to stop the publication of the book.

"Yes, I'm a liberal and I'm proud of it," said Franken. "I believe most Americans are liberals just like me."

He added: "We are the country, but they control it. Only 7 percent of Americans say they want to weaken environmental regulations. But the 7 percent are in charge."

David Corn, a columnist for the left-wing weekly, The Nation, has joined the campaign with another book, "The Lies of George W. Bush."

"George W. Bush is a liar. He has lied large and small. He has lied directly and by omission. He has misstated facts, knowingly or not," said Corn, who also has a website, http://www.bushlies.com, to promote the book.

"Bushwhacked" by Texan journalists Molly Ivins and Lou Dubose, "Big Lies" by Joe Conason, or "The Great Unraveling" by renowned economy professor Paul Krugman also do not pull any punches in criticizing the Bush administration.

Bush ratings

The US Left lost its voice after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States in 2001. Bush's response to the attacks gave a major boost to his ratings.

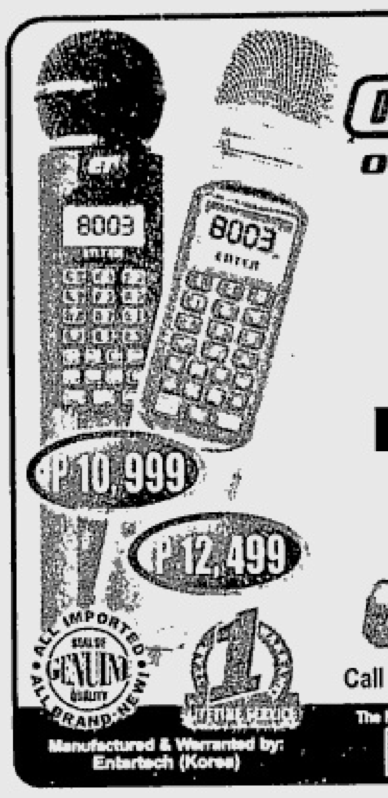
But Bush's ratings have been brought down again by the Iraq war and the failure to find weapons of mass destruction after the downfall of Saddam Hussein.

Some conservative media have criticized the "hatred" that they say is being directed against the president.

"I get the feeling that some Democrats had so much hatred for Bush that they had no hatred left over Saddam," said David Brooks in the Weekly Standard.

Right-wing radio commentator Laura Ingraham makes fun of the writers who have profited from Bush books.

"What drives them nuts is that people actually like Bush," she said. "Even if they disagree with him they think he's a good person." *AFP*



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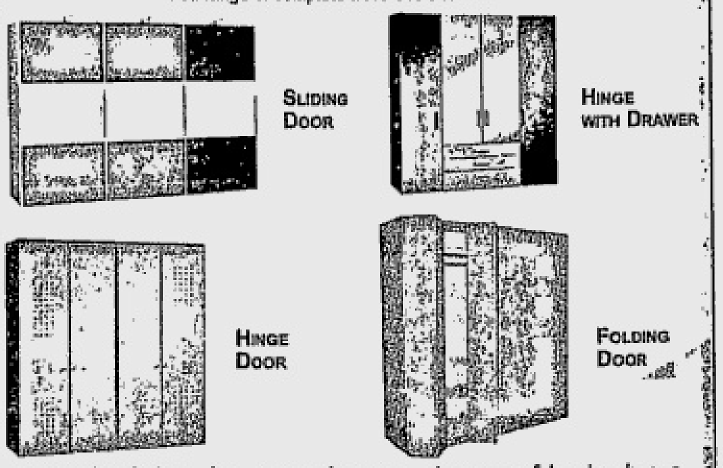

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Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

Pursuant to Section 1, Rule 7 of the Rules of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC-009), as amended, the public is hereby notified of the Panel Interview at the old Supreme Court Session Hall, Third Floor, Old Supreme Court Building, Taft Ave., Manila, of the following applicants/recommendees for five (5) positions of **ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS:**

MONDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2003 (10:00 A.M.)
1. Acosta, Ernesto D.
2. Aquino, Jezarene C.
3. Arquelada, Dominador L.

(2:00 P.M.)
1. Atienza, Mario Arsenio A.
2. Autea, Arthur P.
3. Avisado, Adoracion Cruz

TUESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2003 (10:00 A.M.)
1. Ayson, Ruben C.
2. Baclig, Vivencio S.
3. Baldado, Ismael O.

(2:00 P.M.)
1. Catli, Noli T.
2. Correa, Librado S.
3. Cruz, Stephen C.

WEDNESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2003 (10:00 A.M.)
1. Cualteros, Godofredo L.
2. Dalisay, Moises D. Jr.
3. De Leon, Magdangal M.

(2:00 P.M.)
1. Dimaano, Rodolfo B.
2. Dulay, Caesar R.
3. Europa, Virginia Hofileña

THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2003 (10:00 A.M.)
1. Flores, Alfredo C.
2. Francisco, Emma Carino
3. Fruelda, Carmelita Gutierrez

(2:00 P.M.)
1. Ganay, Clifton U.
2. Garrido, Crisostomo L.
3. Gatmaytan, Nicanor B. Jr.

FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2003 (10:00 A.M.)
1. Genilo, Lita S. Tolentino
2. Gingoyon, Henrick F.
3. Gonzaga, Agustinus V.

(2:00 P.M.)
1. Guanio, Valentin C.
2. Ibrahim, Amer R.
3. Insigne, Eugenio A.

MONDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2003 (10:00 A.M.)
1. Marcos, Luz Quiñones
2. Marella, Sixto C. Jr.
3. Mariano, Rebecca Reyes

(2:00 P.M.)
1. Morga, Agripino G.
2. Muñez, Renato D.
3. Pacatang, Josie S.

WEDNESDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2003 (10:00 A.M.)
1. Padilla, Priscilla Baltazar
2. Peralta, Fernanda Lampas
3. Perello, Norma Cabigon

(2:00 P.M.)
1. Pineda, Ernesto L.
2. Pornillos, Victoria Villalon
3. Quiroz, Alex D.

THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2003 (10:00 A.M.)
1. Rufon, Anastacio C.
2. Salcedo, Zorayda Herradura
3. Sison, Raul S.

(2:00 P.M.)
1. Suing, Jose A.
2. Tanguanco, Eduardo I.
3. Urbiztondo, Rodolfo G.
4. Vestil, Augustine A.

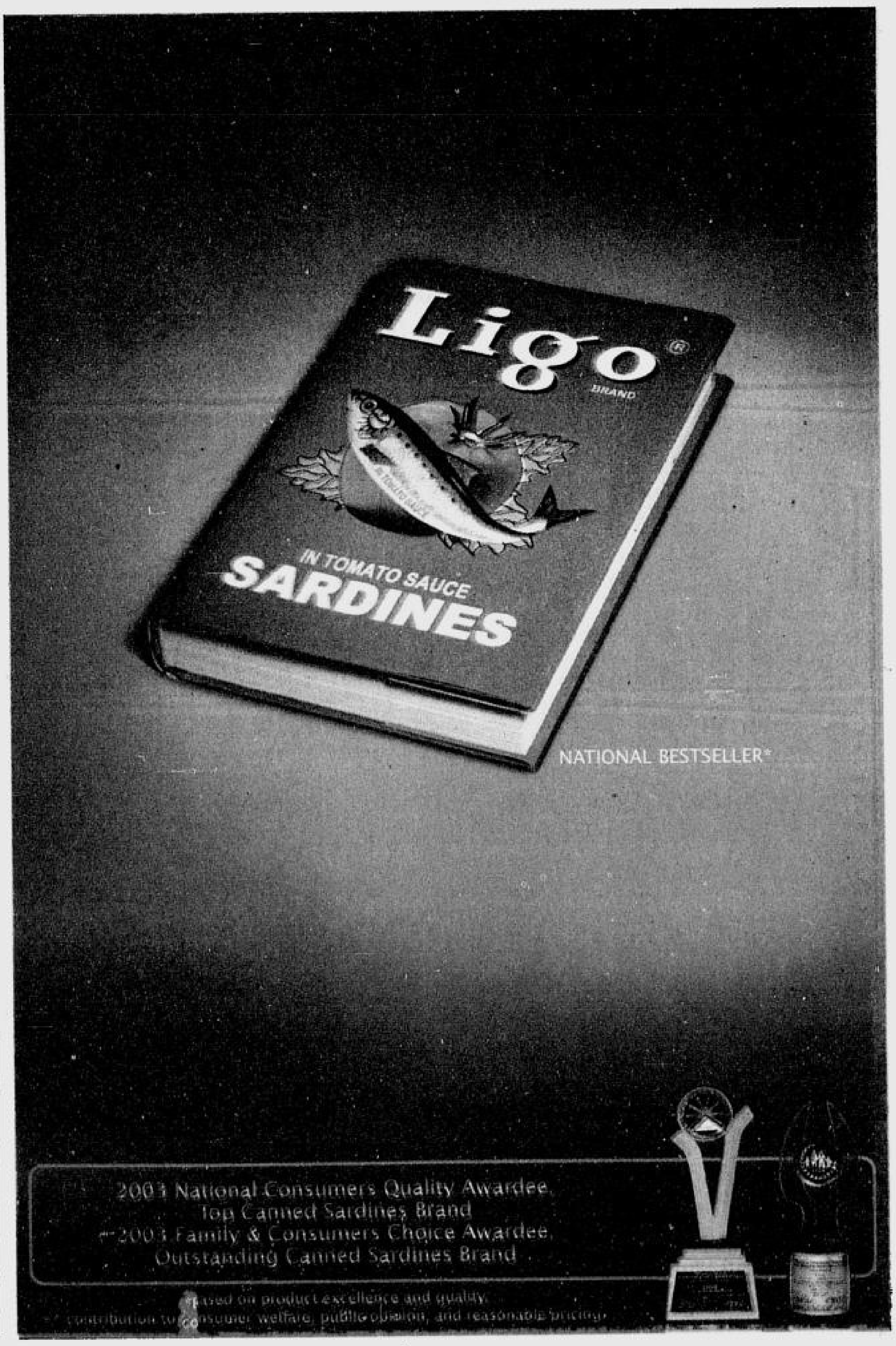
FRIDAY 21, NOVEMBER 2003 (10:00 A.M.)
1. Victorio, Manuel D.
2. Vilches, Nimfa Cuesta
3. Villamil, Alejandro M.

(2:00 P.M.)
1. Villarente, Benigno C. Jr.
2. Villegas, Liberador V.
3. Yanga, Armando A.
4. Zamora, Romeo F.

As stated in the amended rule, the interviews shall be conducted in public.

23 October 2003

LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO
Clerk of Court
Ex Officio Secretary



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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Saudi faces imminent attack–US, UK

RIYADH—The US Embassy in Saudi Arabia warned on Saturday that "terrorist" groups in the kingdom might strike during the coming Muslim holy month of Ramadan, after Britain said attacks might be in the "final stages" of planning.

Saudi officials vowed to thwart any "terror" plots in the oil-rich kingdom, birthplace of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

The fasting month of Ramadan starts on Monday in Saudi Arabia.

A US advisory issued in the Saudi capital Riyadh said:

"The embassy continues to receive information that terrorist groups within the kingdom are still active and planning future operations.

"It is the embassy's assessment that terrorist groups may place special operational significance on the upcoming month of Ramadan and American citizens are therefore urged to be particularly vigilant during this time."

Saudi Arabia has intensified a crackdown on Muslim militants since suspected al-Qaida suicide bombers hit expatriate housing compounds in Riyadh in May, killing 35 including nine Americans.

It has arrested nearly 600 people since then. In the latest operation, weapons and explosives were seized including bomb-belts of the kind used by suicide bombers.

"Saudi security forces are working hard to foil any terrorist organization, and have uncovered several cells in the past weeks and thwarted all their plans to destabilize security," a Saudi official told Reuters without giving details.

He said security forces continued "intense" efforts to maintain security in the world's biggest oil exporter.

In London, Saudi Ambassador Prince Turki al-Faisal criticized the British warning in a statement: "The Kingdom wishes that when such advice is given by sources outside the kingdom that there would be coordination between the people giving this advice and the authorities of the kingdom."

Britain and Australia said earlier that attacks against Westerners might be imminent, and London on Friday stepped up its warning to citizens to avoid Saudi Arabia.

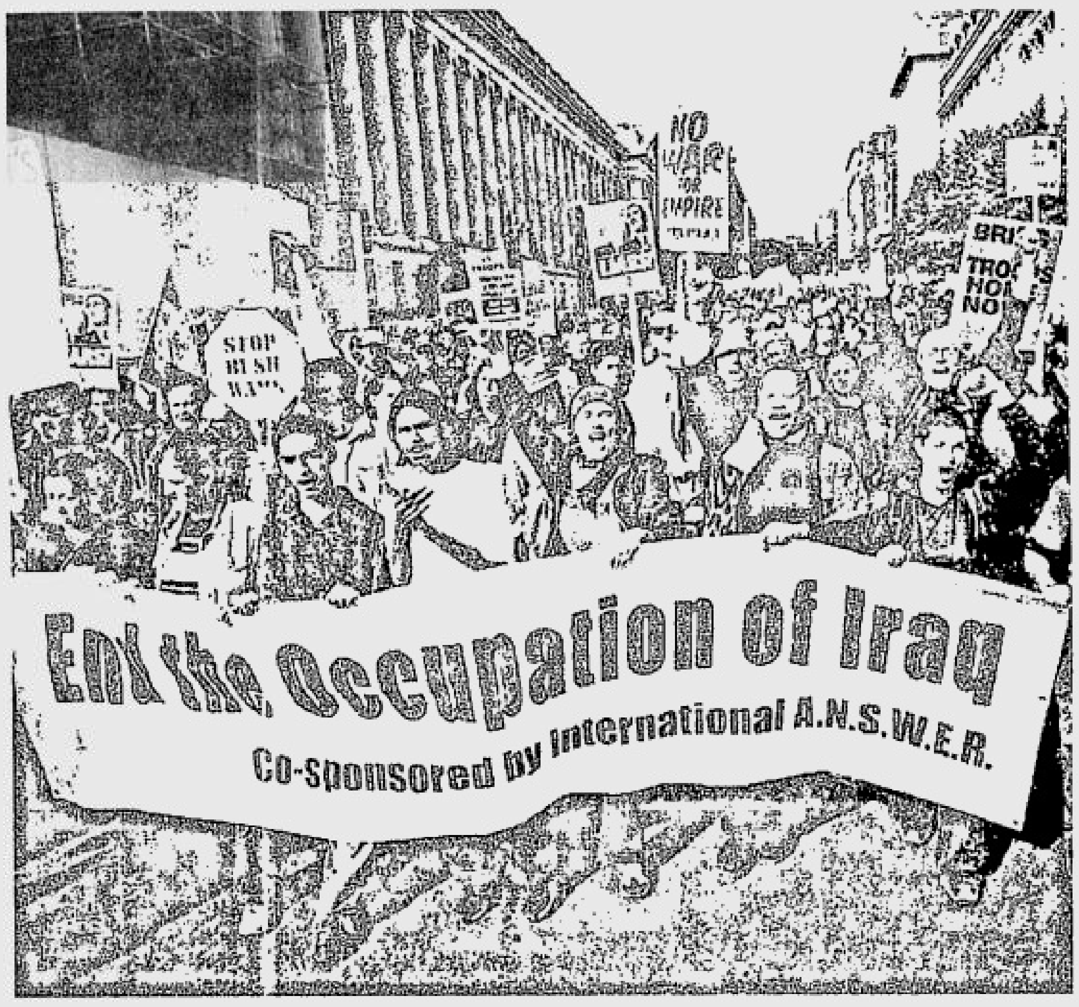
"We believe that terrorists may be in the final phases of planning attacks," the British Foreign Office said.

Australia, which allied itself with the United States and Britain in the Iraq war and has strongly identified with the US campaign against violent Muslim groups like al-Qaida, issued a similar warning on Thursday.

The US mission issued an advisory on Oct. 15 saying Saudi authorities warned that militants might be targeting two of the most prominent commercial centres in the kingdom, popular with Westerners. But the embassy said on Wednesday the time period specified in the threat had passed.

Saudi Arabia has faced intense pressure to crush al-Qaida cells since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States two years ago in which 15 of the 19 hijackers were Saudi citizens.

The issue has strained ties between Washington and its traditional Arab ally, which is the birthplace of Islam, and has focused international attention on the conservative monarchy's efforts to deal with domestic Islamist opposition. *Reuters*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PROTESTERS march past the White House Complex in Washington, DC, Oct. 25 calling for "an end to the occupation of Iraq" by the United States. Organizers said buses picked up participants from New York City to Philadelphia, and as far away as Cleveland and brought them to Washington, DC for the march, part of the biggest anti-war protest since the fall of Saddam Hussein in April. AFP

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This circular shall take effect on all claims with admission dates starting October 1, 2003 to February 1, 2004.

All other provisions consistent with this circular remain in full force and effect.

(Sgd.) **LORNA O. FAJARDO, CESO III**
OIC, Chief Operating Officer
OIC, Office of the President

Huge protests in US assail Iraq policy

WASHINGTON—Tens of thousands of protesters marched around the White House on Saturday in the first large-scale demonstration against the occupation of Iraq by US-led forces since President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat.

The protesters, waving placards demanding the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq, gathered at a rally at the Washington Monument before moving toward the White House.

Peace activists, joined by family members of US troops, said the mounting casualties in Iraq had helped spur the US anti-war movement into action after months of relative quiet.

"We need to make President Bush realize that our children are being killed," said Fernando de Solar Suarez, whose son, a Marine, was killed in Iraq on March 27.

Since May 1, when Bush stood on the deck of an aircraft carrier and declared major combat in the Iraq war over, 108 US soldiers have been killed in guerrilla attacks.

Many of the protesters said they felt the cost of the Iraq occupation in American lives was too high and the billions of US dollars being spent on reconstructing the country's shattered economy could be put to better use at home.

"We need to quit worrying about the ills of other countries and to stop spending billions of dollars on Iraq when we need money for jobs here," said Washington resident Erik Jurek, who added that he was worried about his brother serving in the US Army in Baghdad.

United for Peace and Justice, which coordinated the protest with International Answer (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), estimated that 100,000 people from more than 145 cities attended the demonstration. Police on the streets put the number closer to 20,000 or 30,000. Washington police do not provide official crowd estimates at public protests.

Answer spokesperson Brian Becker said the demonstration was intended to send a message to the Bush administration that its position was "losing ground" while they were gaining.

Polls have shown a steady slide in Bush's approval rating since May, when it was around 80 percent. According to a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll this month, 56 percent of Americans surveyed approved of the way Bush leading the country.

The call to pull US troops out of Iraq was echoed in San Francisco, where several thousand anti-war protesters crowded into a plaza in front of City Hall.

The rally, to be followed by a march to a nearby park, was peaceful, in contrast to past demonstrations in the city, which have ended with hundreds of arrests. *Reuters*

Syria says it may hit Golan should Israel attack again

LONDON—Syria will strike back if Israel attacks again, and could hit Israeli settlements in the Golan Heights, Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara said in a British Sunday newspaper interview.

Syria did not retaliate after Israel raided what it called a "terrorist camp" near Damascus earlier this month, its first strike on Syria in three decades.

"After we were attacked, we acted in a responsible way and went to the United Nations, and a majority of our people supported that," Shara told the Sunday Telegraph.

"But if we are attacked again the people will not stand for it, and we will have to carry out the will of the people," he said.

"We have many cards that have not been played. Don't forget there are many Israeli settlements in the Golan. I am not exaggerating but I am describing things as they might happen."

Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria in 1967 and annexed the territory in 1981. The two countries are officially still at war.

Israel struck Syrian territory on October 5 after a suicide bomber killed 19 people in a beach restaurant in the northern Israeli city of Haifa.

Israel said its target was a base for Palestinian militants.

Syria has come under increasing pressure from Washington to crack down on Palestinian militants.

Washington has long included Damascus on its list of states that sponsor terrorism, and the House of Representatives voted this month to impose diplomatic and economic sanctions on Syria for as long as the White House considers it a terror supporter.

The Senate must pass the bill before President George W. Bush can sign it into law.

Shara told the Sunday Telegraph the government of President Bashar al-Assad had shut down representative offices of Palestinian militant groups Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Shara also said Syria was unable to stop militants from crossing into Iraq to attack U.S. troops there.

"They are very determined and many of them dream of seeing an American tank," he said. *Reuters*

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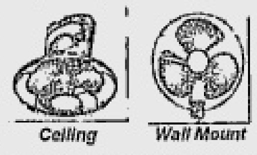

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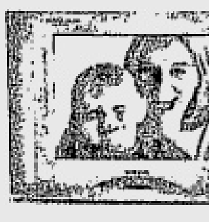

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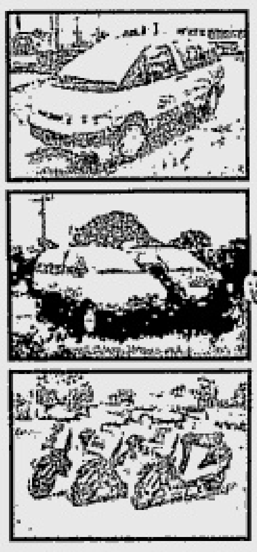

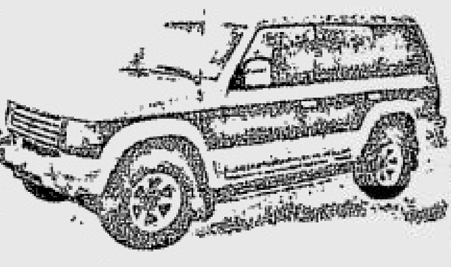

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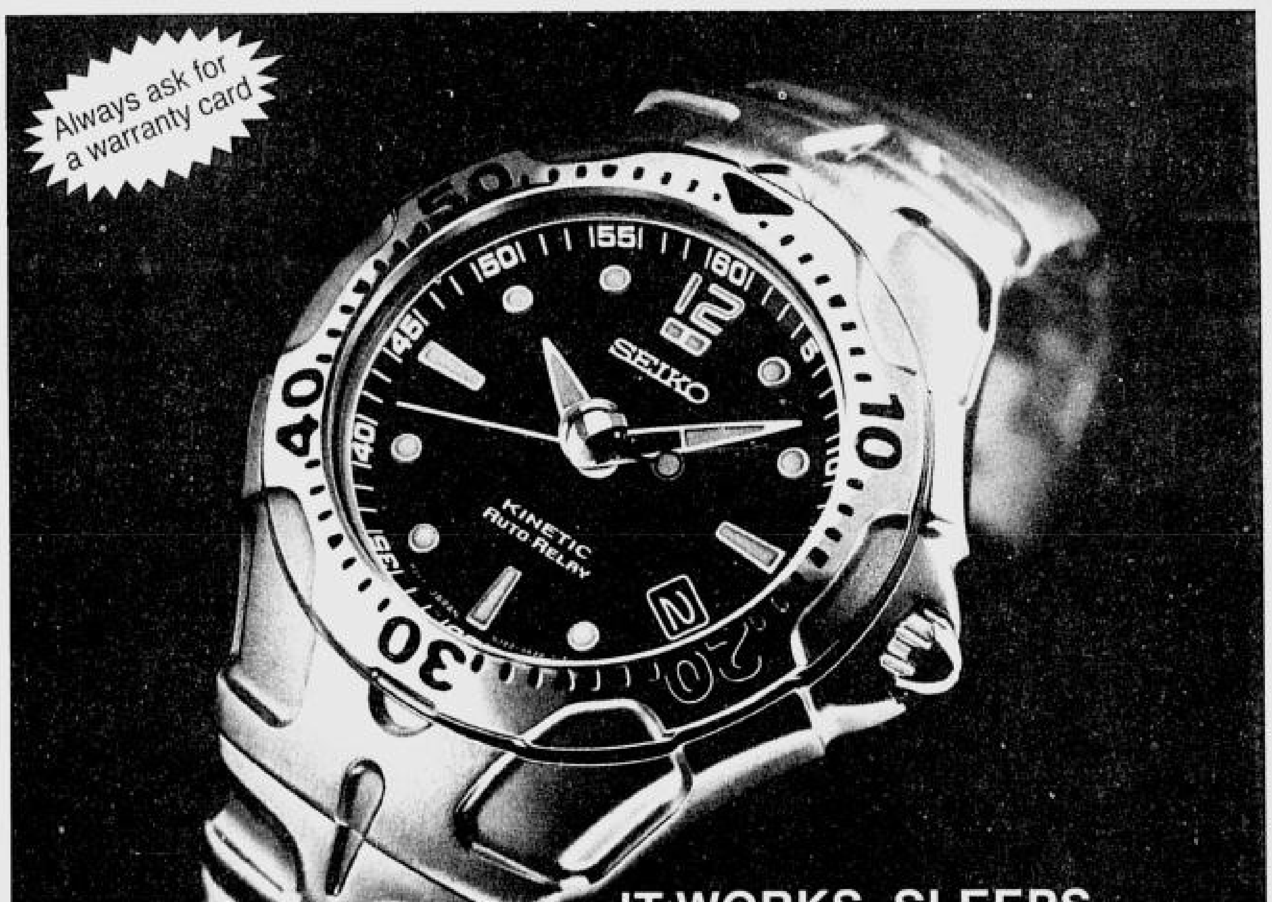

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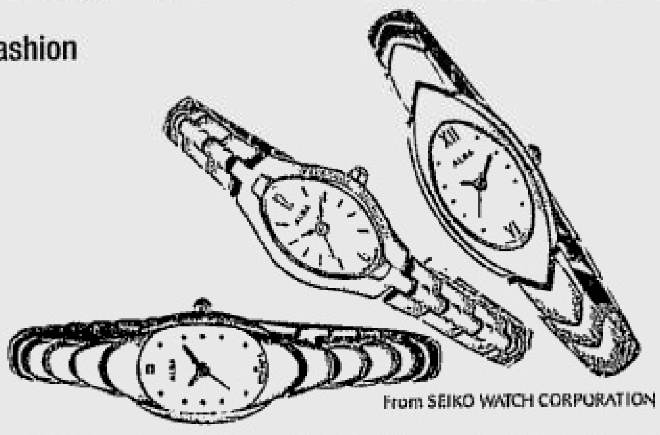

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N. Korea ready to consider US security offer

SEOUL—North Korea, in a significant shift in a year-old nuclear crisis, said Saturday it was prepared to consider a US offer of security guarantees in return for Pyongyang dropping its atomic weapons program.

But, in comments from a Foreign Ministry spokesperson, the Communist North said it was too early to assume more multilateral nuclear talks would be held until Pyongyang had checked Washington's intentions through diplomatic channels.

US President George W. Bush proposed the unspecified written undertakings this week during an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) meeting in Bangkok.

"We are ready to consider Bush's remarks on the written assurances of nonaggression if they are based on the intention to coexist with the DPRK and aimed to play a positive role in realizing the proposal for a package solution on the principle of simultaneous actions," the spokesperson said.

DPRK are the initials of the North's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The North's official KCNA news agency published the spokesperson's comments in English.

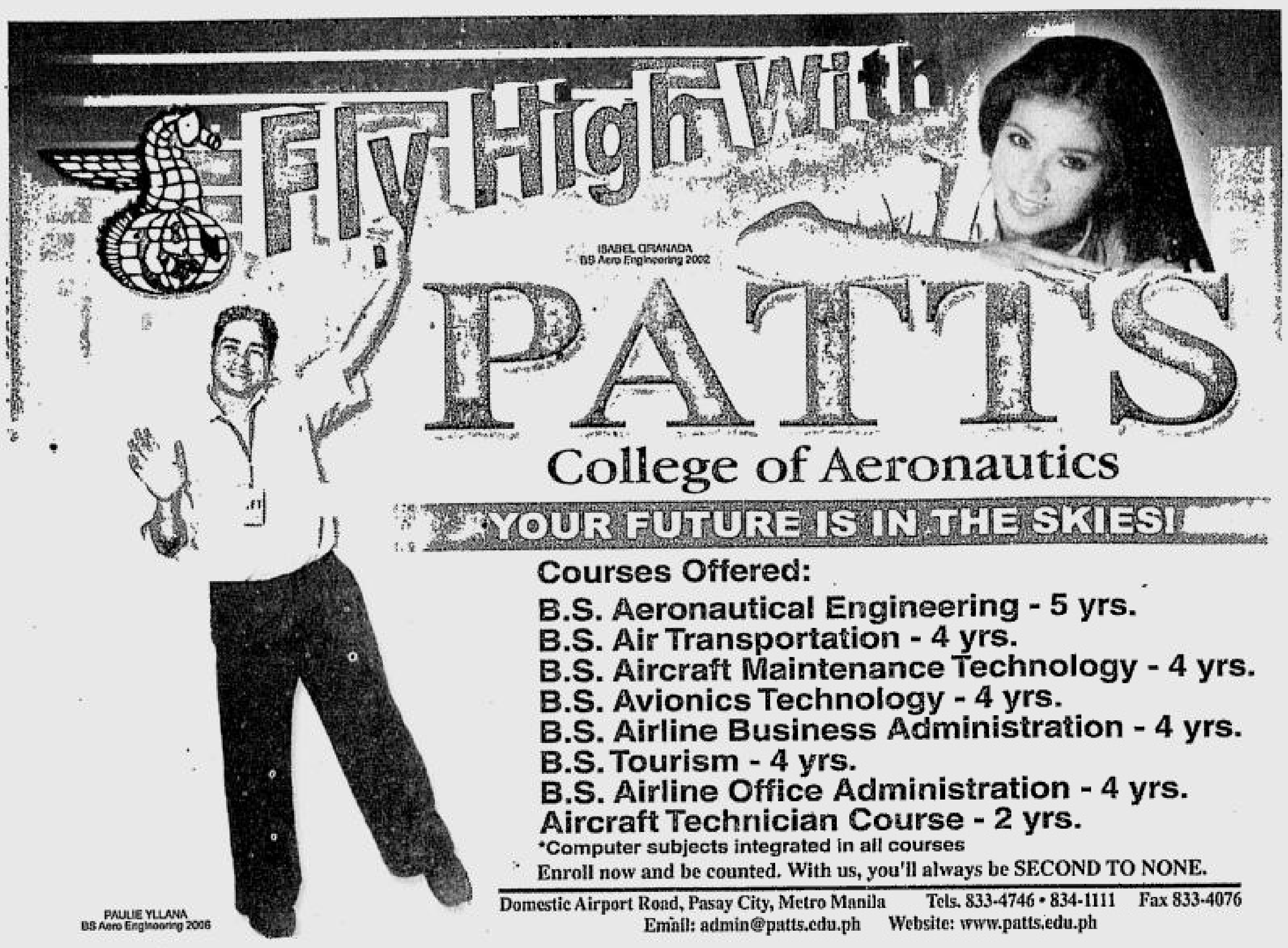
"It is premature to talk about the six-way talks under the present situation unless the will to accept the principle of simultaneous actions is confirmed," he said.

In Washington, the White House reacted cautiously to the the apparent shift in tone from North Korea.

"We're looking at the message and we hope North Korea will return to the Beijing six-party talks," White House spokesperson Jimmy Orr told Reuters.

China hosted an inconclusive first round of talks in Beijing in August with Japan, Russia, the two Koreas and the United States.

"This is a responsible reaction which will set a positive tone for the next round of talks," said Wi Sung-lac, director general of the North American Affairs department at the South Korean Foreign Ministry. *Reuters*



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A WILDFIRE burns along the 23 Freeway in Moorpark, Calif., Oct. 25. The California Highway Patrol closed a portion of the freeway. AP

'Devil winds' fan flames near Los Angeles suburbs

LOS ANGELES—Wildfires threatening the Los Angeles suburbs doubled in size Saturday, consuming at least 15 houses and forcing thousands more people to flee, officials said.

Some 3,500 homes were threatened as the fire zone grew 10,000 hectares in just 12 hours, as the winds drove the flames toward outlying parts of the second largest US city, officials said.

Hot desert "Devil winds" fanned the flames from the slopes and ridges of a mountain range further into residential areas about 100 kilometers northeast of downtown Los Angeles.

"It's been a very bad day indeed," said Robin Renteria, fire information officer for San Bernardino National Forest, where the blaze is raging.

"The fire has spread dramatically because the winds have been driving it hard and were also strong enough to prevent us from flying firefighting aircraft, allowing it to spread further."

The blaze was so intense that it sent a thick haze of smoke over Los Angeles which lies miles away.

The fire was only 23 percent contained as 2,200 firefighters battled to control it, up from 1,400 fighting the flames a day earlier.

The army of firefighters had been backed up by a flotilla of planes and helicopters to push back the inferno that was lapping around homes and forced the closure of two major freeways all day Friday.

The fire, that officials say was started Tuesday by arsonists, has consumed a total of at least 15 homes, two outbuildings, six cars, a boat and a firefighting helicopter that had been forced to land due to mechanical difficulties.

Officials estimated the damage at $6 million, with the flames showing no signs of abating.

The blaze, one of at least six that have broken out in southern California in recent days, is menacing the areas of Fontana and Rancho Cucamonga, in San Bernardino County.

Three new upscale housing developments in Rancho Cucamonga, where seven houses have already been burned down, were most at risk as the region's strong Santa Ana winds whipped up the flames.

Firefighters were ploughing open fields between residential areas to create fire breaks and lighting controlled blazes to consume the fires' fuel and stop them from advancing. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Israel dynamites Gaza buildings

NETZARIM JUNCTION, Gaza Strip—The Israeli army dynamited three large, empty buildings in the Gaza Strip early on Sunday in what it said was retaliation for a deadly Palestinian attack on a nearby Jewish settlement. Troops evacuated more than 2,000 Palestinians from neighboring homes before triggering the explosions, which sent clouds of black smoke billowing up and rocked the area for kilometers around, damaging many other structures. The demolition of the 13-story buildings, unfinished apartment towers owned by Palestinian security services, ratcheted up tensions even further amid tit-for-tat violence that has stalled the US-backed "road map" to peace. The buildings south of Gaza City overlooked the heavily guarded settlement of Netzarim, where two gunmen mounted an attack on Friday that killed three soldiers. Troops shot dead one of the militants, but the other escaped. *Reuters*

Rescuers free Russian miners

NOVOSHAKHTINSK, Russia—Rescue teams in southern Russia brought out all 33 coal miners known to be trapped alive in a flooded mine shaft, officials said on Saturday. But a further 13 men were still unaccounted for following Thursday evening's mining accident, when waters from an underground lake surged through tunnels 800 meters below ground. *Reuters*

8 killed in 2 quakes in China

BEIJING—Two powerful tremors shook a remote region of northwestern China, killing eight people and seriously injuring dozens of others, the government said Sunday. Local officials reported collapsed houses and scores of minor aftershocks. The earthquakes—measured at magnitudes 6.1 and 5.8, respectively—hit a desert area of Gansu province at 8:41 and 8:48 p.m. Saturday, the official Xinhua News Agency said. *AP*

Increased assaults against Peace Corps

DAYTON, Ohio—Assaults against Peace Corps volunteers around the world more than doubled from 1991 to 2002, with nearly 70 percent committed against women, a newspaper reported. A Peace Corps database shows that assault cases jumped 125 percent during the 11-year period, while the number of volunteers increased by only 29 percent, the Dayton Daily News said in a report for Sunday's editions. There were 283 assaults in 2002, up from 126 in 1991, the newspaper said, and 132 assaults through the first six months of this year. Peace Corps spokesperson Barbara Daly disputed the newspaper's interpretation. She said that since 1997, the agency has had a 30 percent decrease in the rate of major sexual assault cases—excluding such things as touching and unwanted kissing—and a 35 percent decrease in the rate of rape cases. The newspaper said that although the number of rape cases did decrease from 20 in 1997 to 13 in 2002, the number of all sexual assault cases increased from 73 to 94 during that period and the overall number of assault cases—including aggravated assault, simple assault, sexual assaults and death threats—rose from 251 to 283. *AP*

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Attacking the courts

EDITORIAL

THE IMPEACHMENT case engineered by the powerful Nationalist People's Coalition in Congress against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. is not only a grave abuse of legislative power. It is also an unsubtle assault on the judiciary.

We view this attack on the country's courts with alarm. Despite its many shortcomings, the third branch of government has provided stability and certainty to the political environment since democracy was restored in 1986.

Some of its economic-related rulings have been vexing, but on the political issues, the Supreme Court has largely called it right. On the controversial cases involving ill-gotten wealth accumulated during the Marcos regime, including the ultimate disposition of the P100-billion coconut levy fund, the high court in the last few years has moved with both courage and dispatch.

This is why the country has suddenly found itself thrust into a constitutional crisis.

The second impeachment complaint against Davide makes the usual noises about constitutional principles: the rule of law, separation of powers, accountability. But the allegations about the Judiciary Development Fund are an ill-fitting disguise. In truth, this impeachment case is about stopping the Supreme Court in its tracks.

The judiciary is often referred to, even in classical constitutional theory, as the weakest of the three branches of government. This is because it is a "passive" agency: it can only act when it is requested or required to act. And when it acts, its decisions need to be enforced by the other branches of government.

And yet, at key moments in the life of the nation since 1986, the courts have shown an "activist" bent—that is, they have used the cases at hand to help shape both policy and history. The Supreme Court, in particular, has used its prestige and its power to persuade to settle issues that have threatened to divide the nation.

In possibly its most significant decision since Cayetano Arellano was named the first Chief Justice, the high court in January 2001 intervened to save the nation. And then, in a series of landmark decisions, it upheld the constitutional legitimacy of the administration that came to power.

The legal adage couldn't be more precise: The Constitution is what the Supreme Court says it is. We may argue whether an act of government is constitutional or not, in fact in the exercise of our responsibilities as citizens we are all of us encouraged to do so, but there must be a limit to the arguing. In our system of government, that limit is reached when the Supreme Court says so.

This is precisely why the second impeachment complaint against Davide within a year is an attack on the judiciary—because it usurps the Supreme Court's power to say what is constitutional or not.

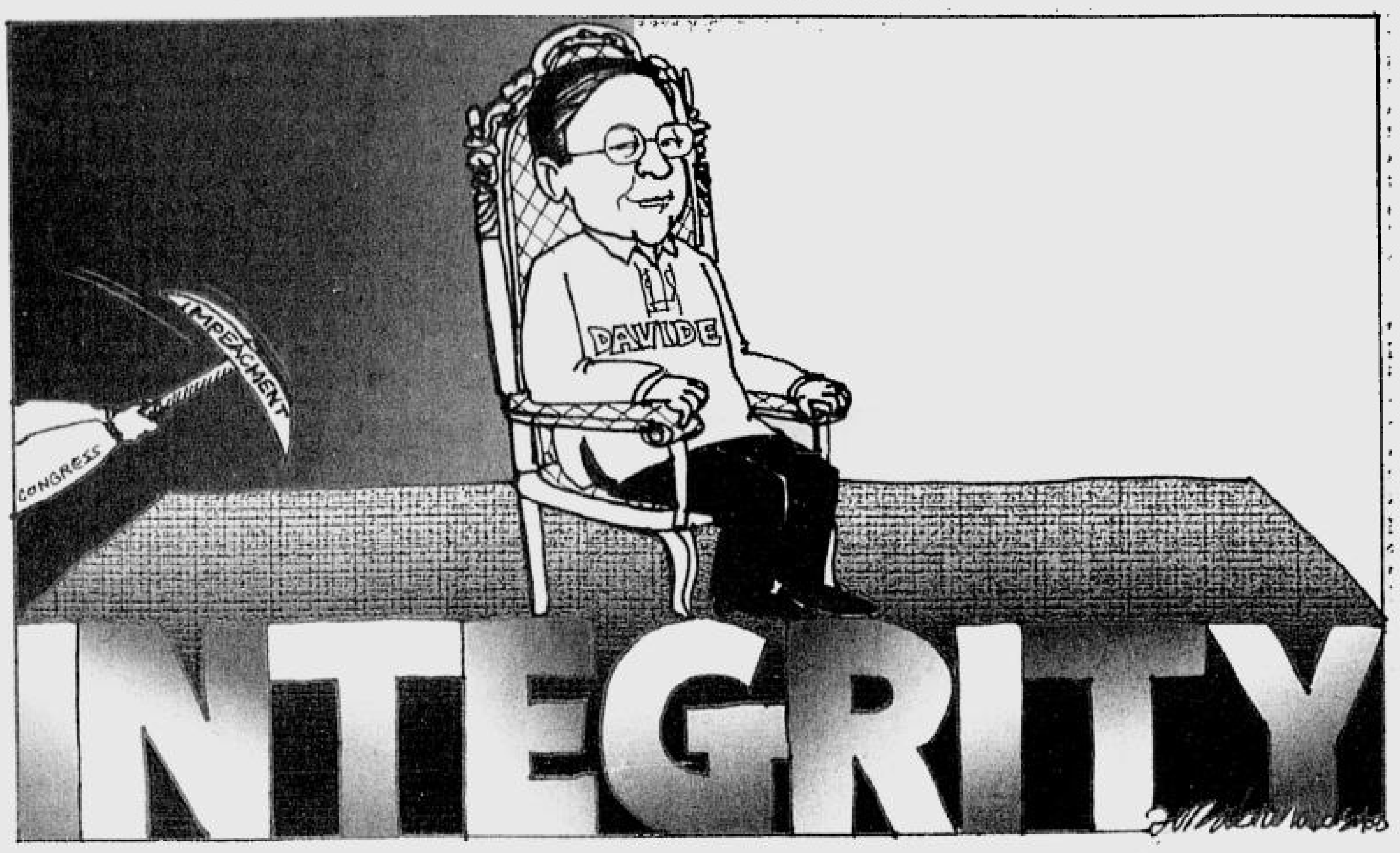
On the face of it, the second complaint already runs counter to the Constitution, because the fundamental law provides that not more than one impeachment case can be initiated against an impeachable official within a year, as a safeguard against harassment. As Fr. Joaquin Bernas, SJ has already pointed out, the deliberations of the 1986 Constitutional Commission prove that this was what the framers had in mind.

The House Rules define initiation differently. If there is a conflict between those rules and the Constitution, which should prevail? Even non-lawyers know the answer to this basic question. But congressmen insist that the vote to impeach Davide was constitutional, or at least that the Senate rule on the question of constitutionality.

(Even House leaders caught unawares by the NPC impeachment campaign, like Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, emphasize that Davide has no choice but to go to the Senate for trial. Otherwise, Gonzales said, Davide should resign. This is the sound of a politician who, seeing the NPC's handwriting on the congressional wall, is desperate to hold on to his job.)

Since 2001, the opposition has attacked the judicial system—for daring to hold deposed President Joseph Estrada to account for corruption, or Sen. Panfilo Lacson for summary execution, or assorted politicians in May 2001 and July 2003 for abetting rebellion. Into this sordid pattern the Davide impeachment bid fits, like iron hand in velvet glove.

The blow is coming; we must parry it with public outrage.



Lakas terrified by possible FPJ candidacy

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LET'S not terrorize ourselves, President Macapagal-Arroyo told the public the other day. But look who's talking? She was referring of course to the reported presence of foreign terrorists belonging to the Jemaah Islamiyah running loose here that is scaring business and the people, but her very own people are nevertheless terrified not by the terrorists but by just one person. He goes by the initials FPJ.

By his lonesome self, this guy, just like the characters he portrays in the movies who prompt the bad guys to leave town just by the news that he is coming, has sent jitters crawling up and down the spines of "*sipsips*" in the administration just by rumors that he may run for president next year. In fact, they're already in a panic. And he hasn't done anything yet. Why shouldn't they panic? If FPJ throws his hat into the presidential ring, they would all be jobless in eight months.

So, in a manner of speaking, they're circling the wagons like the settlers preparing for an Indian attack. FPJ has not yet made up his mind but the running dogs of the administration have already let loose a triple-barreled blast against him. Various characters are already belittling his ability to run the government. Even former President Fidel V. Ramos who should already be an elder statesman and should behave better, is being used to cut down FPJ.

"We deserve better," he said.

To which FPJ fans retorted: "We deserved better during your term, too. If we were able to put up with you then, we can put up with FPJ. He couldn't possibly be worse than you."

Businessmen, that elitist clique in Makati, also belittled FPJ as did a number of *trapos*, obviously to scare the movie actor into deciding against running. There is even a text brigade using God for their selfish ends. They are texting the people to pray to God to make FPJ see the light and decide not to run.

Free will is the first trait that God gave man. The priests teach that repeatedly. Now these selfish, panic-stricken elitists want to deny FPJ his free will. Let him decide of his own free will. Don't coerce, scare and influence him to decide against running. All that arm twisting may just anger him—just like the hero he plays in the movies who finally gets fed up with all the badgering by the bad guys that he turns around and wreaks vengeance on them. *Baka mainis 'yan, sige kayo*. Like mild-mannered Bruce Banner being picked on, there is an implied plea in FPJ's silence: "Please don't make me angry. I get terrible when I'm angry." When he gets angry, he may just run, even if he doesn't intend to, just to spite those hecklers.

We're still a free country, aren't we? So leave him alone. Let him decide for himself. Or have selfishness and elitism made us prisoners of bigotry?

It is the Constitution that says who are qualified to run for president, not former presidents, not the "*trapos*." If the Constitution says FPJ is qualified to run, who are you to tell him otherwise?

Why are they ganging up on him to force him not to run? Because they're afraid of him, obvious *ba*? They know that their candidate would be buried by votes for FPJ, that their candidate would end up in the *kangkong* patch. So they're trying to avoid a head-to-head contest by forcing him not to run.

Ironically, FPJ is a formidable presidential rival not so much because of his popularity in the movies but because the people are fed up with traditional politicians. They're also fed up with this administration; there's so much crookedness in it. They want so much to change it. But the other candidates are more of the same, and the people don't trust traditional politicians anymore. FPJ is their remaining hope because he is not a "*trapo*." He is like a floating piece of wood in a stormy sea. That is why although there are other candidates wanting to succeed to Malacañang, the entry of FPJ in the race is like the Second Coming.

Of course his critics may be right. Maybe he will make a mess of the already messy Philippines. Maybe he will fall flat on his face. Maybe he would be the worst president we ever had. Personally, I myself would be more comfortable with other candidates.

On the other hand, he may be better than all or some of them. In the first place, it isn't so hard to be better than them, considering how badly they ran the country. There is a 50 percent chance that he would be worse; but there is also a 50 percent chance that he would be better. We don't know. Only by trying him will we know. As they say, the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

In short, while we already know that the present leadership is not up to par, we don't know how FPJ will turn out. So let's give him a chance.

On FPJ's lack of qualification and experience, running a nation doesn't mean the president will do all the work himself. The skill of a president is determined by his ability to choose the right men to help him. The important thing is not his college degree but his sincerity and honesty. We have had officials with a string of degrees, *pero palpak rin*.

Character is the key, not a university degree.

FPJ may be only a high school graduate, but like Ronald Reagan, he can appoint brilliant subordinates who are sincere and dedicated and not the usual politicians and opportunists looking out only for themselves.

To paraphrase on old saying, don't knock him 'til you've tried him.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Reporter to Erap: "Why do you have so many wives?"

Erap: "Because we were taught at the Ateneo law school that those who have less in life should have more in-laws."

Impeach Gloria

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FOR the first time in my life last week, I really felt this country had become hopeless.

I didn't feel that way when the surveys said 19 percent of the population wanted to leave the country, though heaven knows that was the most depressing thing in the world. I didn't feel that way when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo talked of the spoils the country stood to reap from helping to devastate Iraq, though heaven knows that was the most despicable thing in the world. I didn't even feel that way when GMA broke her vow not to run, though that was the most shameful thing in the world.

But I felt that way when a bunch of hoodlums in barong tagalog in a den of thieves called the House of Representatives impeached Hilario Davide last week. Most of our crippling ills have so far dealt only with the body, this one deals with the soul. This one deals a mortal blow to everything we hold sacred. The day a Danding Cojuangco and a Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo are able to bring down a Hilario Davide for corruption is the day we lose all our moral moorings. It is the day we pass through the gate that says, "Abandon all hope, all ye who enter here."

Welcome to hell.

There and then, you see the irrefutable refutation of the wisdom of the parliamentary system, which Jose de Venecia has been trying to push for his own ends. A parliamentary system will repose all power in the bunch of hoodlums in barong tagalog in a den of thieves called the House of Representatives. Look at the way those creatures acted when Mark Jimenez was deemed extraditable by the courts. They formed a ring around him and said the only way the marshals would get him was over their dead bodies. That was their first instinct, to protect a fellow hoodlum and protect him at all costs. It is our monumental misfortune we did not take them at their word, and got Jimenez over their dead bodies.

There was a preponderance of evidence in Jimenez's case, there is little in Davide's case. To call what the congressmen under Cojuangco's thumb did a rush to judgment is to call what Cojuangco did to the coconut farmers pulling a fast one. It obliterates the unmitigated viciousness of it—yes, viciousness—with the burning acid of false benignity. Yet the NPC congressmen talk of law and principle and justice! They would not recognize those concepts if they rushed at them like an oncoming train.

Thank God, Joker Arroyo has recovered his senses amid this mugging of moral scruples in broad daylight and stopped being the joker he has become over the last couple of years. About time! My God, man, you fought Marcos, you fought Erap, only to grovel at the feet of GMA? You fought tyranny, you fought injustice, only to slobber over pettiness?

He's right: Davide is the sacrificial lamb at the altar of GMA's election bid. GMA wants Cojuangco, and Cojuangco comes dear. It wasn't enough he got back his shares at San Miguel, he has to ruin the one person whose feet he is not worthy to kiss. To get that help, GMA is perfectly willing to aid and abet him. But you want to ask: Wasn't that patent from the start? Wasn't it obvious GMA would out-*trapo* the worst *trapo* in this country? Wasn't it obvious she would do anything to get the thing she has craved from the start? Including plunging the country into the maelstrom of what the Pope himself calls an unjust war, including lying about her plans for herself and her country, including destroying the very person who put her in power?

What galls is not just the illegality of it, though heaven knows the impeachment has no legal leg to stand on—you cannot impeach someone twice in one year and you cannot impeach someone who is still being investigated—it is the sheer injustice of it.

At the very least, who are Danding Cojuangco and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo? Cojuangco is the Marcos crony who fled this country for fear of being torn limb from limb by an irate people, the coconut farmers at the head of them. It's bad enough he got back wealth that isn't his—he should even now be in jail for the pillage he wreaked—it's a black day when he can be free to lay low a pillar of rectitude. And GMA is the person who stands accused of equally epic corruption, and being married to one Jose Pidal. For crying out loud, she helped abduct the one witness who fingered her husband as Pidal. The reason she vowed not to run in December last year was the charges of corruption, which were getting sticky. As it turned out, that vow was merely meant to buy time to extricate herself from them.

At the very most, who is Hilario Davide? He is not merely the Chief Justice who risked career and reputation to swear in GMA to defuse a political crisis. He is the Chief Justice who stamped his name and honor on to the impeachment trial and made it the most honorable thing this country has done. There were many things that made the Erap impeachment trial the most credible thing it was. Davide was chief of them. Without Davide, that trial would have looked like a vendetta or a mugging or a power grab, the blind leading the blind, the greedy judging the petty. Without Davide, Erap's legions and the foreign press would have had a longer field day calling Edsa II mob rule.

Without Davide, GMA would not be President: The swearing-in was pure gravy. But a capacity for gratitude has never been GMA's strongest suit.

The INQUIRER has every reason to retract its Person of the Year award to GMA last year, it has no reason to retract its Person of the Year award to Davide three years ago. The first has not kept her word, the second has remained true to his. But what a country we have become, that the blind should lead the seeing, that fools should light the way for the wise, that crooks should sit in judgment over honest men!

Impeach Davide? Impeach Gloria.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Hero to the people

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

REPORTS say various congressional leaders led by Speaker Jose de Venecia are moving for a "win-win" solution so that the impeachment move against Chief Justice Hilario Davide does not get to the Senate. It has been calendared for business in the House this afternoon and let's hope and pray that sensible heads and a sense of patriotism would prevail. Various political groups such as the Liberal Party have joined in the clamor. How this "win-win" solution will take final shape we can only second-guess. But there is now an awareness among House members that the impeachment move would damage the country's image of stability and that "last bulwark of democracy," the judiciary.

* * *

The allegation of my friend, Sen. Joker Arroyo, headlined by the INQUIRER, that President Macapagal-Arroyo was party to Eduardo Cojuangco's effort, through his Nationalist People's Coalition, to impeach Davide was absolutely wild. Joker had alleged that GMA had agreed to a deal with Cojuangco to oust Davide, before whose court he has three pending criminal cases, in return for the NPC's support in 2004 and perhaps some campaign funds. It's a wild accusation even from the point of logic alone—GMA needs an oust-Davide move like a hole in the head, so soon after the successful Bush visit.

* * *

The Manila Times cited the American Chamber of Commerce as stating that the excellent handling by the administration of the Bush visit has demonstrated the country's stability and earned it the respect of the world. This was followed, said AmCham, by the admission of the Philippines among the 10 non-voting members of the UN Security Council, after a vote by 179 of the 181 member nations—a ratification of its prestige around the world.

Following that logic, local business leaders pointed out that what we ought to be doing right now is to consolidate the gains scored from the Bush visit; but this impeachment move just days after that visit only serves to dissipate those gains. The question is, would GMA, who endured so much vilification for her political alliance with Bush, but who defied all her critics in pushing his visit successfully, just throw those *pogi* points away by supporting the ouster of her benefactor? She has got to be a first class moron and masochist to do that. As De Venecia, defending GMA and Lakas, put it, they are "still basking in the afterglow of an eminently successful state visit," and would be the last people to create new trouble by conniving to oust Davide.

Washington sources say American officialdom's first reaction to the Davide impeachment was, what? How did this happen? After that beautiful reception in Congress for Bush, with no less than a standing ovation, his administration's reaction to the ouster move was said to be one of utter disbelief, especially since US officials know how highly regarded the Chief Justice is here.

* * *

The perception that GMA was in cahoots with Cojuangco was heightened, doubtless, by her "neutrality" stance at the outset. People expected her to come to Davide's rescue and badger the Lakas members who signed the resolution to back off, and she was roundly criticized as "ungrateful." But actually GMA was in a no-win situation: had she moved to prevent the impeachment from gaining ground, she would have been loudly denounced as meddling and disrespecting the separation of powers between the branches of government.

De Venecia was also in a tight situation. Had he openly campaigned against impeachment, perhaps the NPC would have moved against him. Moreover, De Venecia was so busy monitoring the first impeachment complaint against Davide in the justice committee which he thought was a far more serious move as it involved half the Court and the legitimacy of GMA. He was also so busy overseeing the Bush visit and budget hearings that possibly he failed to closely monitor the second move.

* * *

The biggest winner is Chief Justice Davide, as support from the rank and file of the entire judiciary and the country's lawyers galvanized solidly for him, demonstrating the leadership the hotheads are now seeking to demolish. Moreover, the citizens saw a new aspect of the silver-haired, mild-mannered magistrate when he openly denounced Cojuangco and attributed his persecution directly to the "coco levy cases." By defending himself against the very powerful Cojuangco, Davide has become a hero to the people.

* * *

The Cebuanos have rallied behind their embattled *kababayan* and Cebu City Rep. Raul del Mar, the first House member to defend Davide, has become a little hero. Reaping flak are two NPC lawmakers who signed the impeach resolution, Nerissa Soon-Ruiz and Ace Durano (though it's hard to begrudge Durano as he is the NPC secretary-general). In a chat I had with Sen. John Osmeña, he stressed that impeachment is too grave and radical a solution to the allegation of abuse of the Judicial Development Fund (JDF) against Davide. Osmeña opined that legislative measures could be instituted to protect the P1.3 billion JDF from abuse.

PD 1949, issued by President Marcos in the early '80s, created the JDF from a percentage of court fees, and put its disbursement under the "sole prerogative" of the chief justice, thus reinforcing the fiscal autonomy granted to the judiciary by our various constitutions. Note that the judiciary is guaranteed automatic release of its budget and exempts it from legislative scrutiny, unlike the executive department; the judiciary has always jealously guarded this fiscal autonomy. Davide says the JDF is reviewed by the Commission on Audit, but now the NPC-led legislators want to scrutinize it in the interest of "check and balance." But they ought to amend PD 1949 first to remove that "sole prerogative" clause.

Chief under siege

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

"KINAKABAHAN ako dito," was how lawyer Hildegardo Iñigo, dean of the Ateneo de Davao Law School, describes the congressmen's move to impeach Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. Offhand, Iñigo believes the impeachment complaint, the second against Davide since June, is an "orchestrated move" and part of a scheme "to discredit the country's institutions."

After the controversies and scandals that rocked both the executive and legislative branches, Iñigo said the Supreme Court is the "only one left unscathed."

"What is more disturbing is who or which group is just staying in the sidelines and manipulating all these moves," he says, echoing the warning of many experts that Davide's impeachment may plunge the country into another constitutional and political crisis. I am afraid that this warning is not baseless.

With the resolution of the House committee on justice dismissing the complaint filed by the men of deposed President Joseph Estrada against Davide and the other justices yet to be tackled by the House in plenary, the impeachment initiated and affirmed by the congressmen last Thursday is legally questionable. Whether justified or not, the partisan and political character of the impeachment move cannot be mistaken. The issue of the alleged mismanagement of the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF) is only a thinly veiled subterfuge to pressure the Supreme Court for political and economic reasons, including some of the latest landmark cases decided by the Davide Court like the Marcos hidden wealth and the coco levy fund.

But beyond the legitimacy and wisdom of the charges hurled against Davide, it is perhaps the issue of initiating a second complaint that will surely become the bone of legal contention. Although the Constitution automatically allows a verified complaint endorsed by at least one-third of the House members as the Articles of Impeachment, thus, justifying immediate trial by the Senate, this must be read with the other related provisions.

Article XI, Section 3, paragraph 5 of the Constitution states that "no impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more that once within a period of the same year."

As pointed out by constitutional experts, the filing of the second anti-Davide complaint is barred by the Constitution as it occurred within the same year.

Constitutional law professor Paul Montejo agrees. "The Constitution did not distinguish whether it is for the same offense or not," he said.

"What is clearly forbidden is the initiation of the same proceeding in the same year against the same official, which in this case is Chief Justice Davide," Montejo explains.

Like many others, I am also confident that Davide can very well defend himself and assert the independence and fiscal autonomy of the Supreme Court from this unprecedented political assault. However, the nagging question on the propriety of the second impeachment complaint must be resolved first since the impeachment process is considered as a "formidable weapon" and a "remedy of last resort."

With a constitutional question looming, the question now is: who will resolve the impasse? The Supreme Court as the final arbiter of all constitutional questions will likely be placed in a possible no-win position and an extended head-on collision with the initiators of the Chief Justice's impeachment. That scenario is apparently what the pro-impeachment group wants, to put the high court in a more negative light.

To avoid such a crisis, the ball is now in the Senate. "The Senate, as the impeachment court, can declare that it has no jurisdiction or authority yet to hear the second complaint because a condition precedent—the non-initiation of another impeachment proceeding within one year—has been violated," Montejo says. Failing that, we are definitely heading for another long undeserved crisis.

* * *

Eclipsed by the Davide impeachment was the passage into law of Republic Act 9227, which upgrades the compensation of judges and justices. The law, principally shepherded by Sen. Francis Pangilinan, is one of the reforms aimed at further strengthening the judiciary and the administration of justice. Ironically, it is Chief Justice Davide himself who pushed for these reforms. In the book "Monitoring the State of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession," the Social Weather Stations cited low pay, among others, for the lack of judges in many court rooms across the nation. Low pay is also cited for corruption in the judiciary.

This salary reform should also be extended to other court personnel—clerks, stenographers, sheriffs and others—who comprise the bulk of the judiciary's employees and who are also the most vulnerable to loan sharks and to temptations of corruption.

* * *

His infancy goes quickly. The unseeing eyes, the fanciful chuckles and dainty curls; the sudden whimpers and unexpected jabs—they're all yesterday's. Now, he explores and probes everything. He communicates with us, like an adult, although the innocence remains. Xandro Ysagani, my only child, celebrates his 5th birthday today. Told that he is somewhat lucky because when I was celebrating my 5th, the country was then in chaos because of the impending declaration of martial law, his innocent answer floored me: *"Nakita ko sa* TV *marami man din gulo ngayon."*

Nonetheless, I wish XYZ and his generation may learn from the history of their elders!

* * *

Comments to karlos_z23@hotmail.com or kar_laws@yahoo.com

That one-third rule of the minority

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

IMPEACHMENT is both a political and judicial process. We learned that, in the era of Erap. But now that the shoe is on the other foot, creative amnesia seems to reign in an era of double standards and sad clichés over the impeachment of Hilario Davide. Unable to take some of their own medicine, the "letter of the law" has suddenly been discovered by the same civil and religious socialites who were at one time willing to forego such technicalities as the Constitution's explicit rules on presidential removal and replacement. That was all in the spirit of getting rid of a venal president then, and saving a virtuous Chief Justice now.

But let's look at the letter of the law—the better to understand its true spirit. The word "impeachment" occurs exactly 12 times in the full text of the 1987 Constitution, which my word processor claims contains 18,239 separate words. "Impeachment" first appears in Article VII where it says the President "may grant reprieves, commutations and pardons" but **not** in cases of impeachment, which applies only to the President, the Vice President, justices of the Supreme Court, members of the constitutional commissions and the Ombudsman.

The word "initiate" occurs exactly twice in the entire 1987 Constitution, in Article XI (Accountability of Public Officers)—both in connection with that moronic "one-third rule of the minority" on impeachment. But such is the letter of the law:

Section 3. (1) The House of Representatives shall have the exclusive power to ***initiate*** *all cases of impeachment.*

Therefore, the mere filing of complaints for impeachment of a high official by any citizen, or even by a Member of the House, does not initiate a case of impeachment, since only the House of Representatives itself has that exclusive power, while any citizen can make accusations:

(2) A verified Complaint for Impeachment may be filed by any Member of the House of Representatives or by any citizen upon a resolution or endorsement by any Member thereof, which shall be included in the Order of Business within ten session days, and referred to the proper Committee within three session days thereafter. The Committee, after hearing, and by a majority vote of all its Members, shall submit its report to the House within sixty session days from such referral, together with the corresponding resolution. The resolution shall be calendared for consideration by the House within ten session days from receipt thereof.

Note that there are no time or frequency limits on complaints for impeachment, but lots of requirements to calendar and process them, because that is how the House decides whether it must initiate proceedings to remove a high official from office in a Senate trial.

(3) A vote of at least one-third of all the Members of the House shall be necessary either to affirm a favorable resolution with the Articles of Impeachment of the Committee, or override its contrary resolution. The vote of each Member shall be recorded. (4) In case the verified complaint or resolution of impeachment is filed by at least one-third of all the Members of the House, the same shall constitute the Articles of Impeachment, and trial by the Senate shall forthwith proceed.

Clearly, the House exercises its exclusive power to initiate a case of impeachment by transmitting "Articles of Impeachment" to the Senate for trial when "at least one-third of all the Members of the House" resolve that it shall be so. (Most other civilized nations prescribe between one-half and three-fourths, but such is the letter of the law.) Now, here is the second time we find "initiate" in the Constitution:

(5) No impeachment proceedings shall be ***initiated*** *against the same official more than once within a period of one year.* (6) The Senate shall have the sole power to try and decide all cases of impeachment.

Surely, the framers did not intend that only one Complaint for Impeachment be filed and considered per year, since anyone fearing impeachment could get a flawed complaint filed and rejected to be inoculated from the power of impeachment. But it would be reasonable to limit to one per year the number of times an official could be impeached and tried in the Senate. Since the Philippine Senate has never before received Articles of Impeachment against respondent Hilario Davide, it does not appear that the House of Representatives has ever exercised its exclusive power to initiate a case of impeachment against him. Until now.

So why is this happening now? You can read all about the sinister motivations of various political villains, but beware of hypocrites showing up all over the place, now that Edsa II's chickens are coming home to roost for the Davide judiciary, just as they did earlier this year for the military of the resigned-but-resurrected Angelo Reyes.

With civil society's darling Davide in danger of disrepute by obloquy in an impeachment trial involving luxury cars, vacation homes and billions of pesos of the judiciary's 25,000 employees, can Jaime Cardinal Sin, be far behind when it is "Erap and Marcos forces" uniting against the Chief Justice of Edsa II?

A bigger truth about the impeachment is that many think since Edsa II, the judiciary has been too subservient to Malacañang. Seven recent appointees to the Court give the Palace power not seen since Marcos. Davide himself cannot fail to see the growing power and arrogance of that Carpio-led bloc and the real danger to democracy that lurks in a captured judiciary. *(Visit my website at http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com/)*

Bane of 'no comment'

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

MANY years back, a senator who owed his election to the popularity of his brother-president made famous the words "many comments, many mistakes; few comments, few mistakes; no comment, no mistake." He took to heart what he said and, as a result, was reelected several times.

Today's politicians do not seem to agree with that senator's motto. The easiest thing to ask members of Congress nowadays is to comment on current issues. Their "words of wisdom" flow easily while they look at the TV cameras or the reporters' notepads. And once they start talking, there's no stopping them.

The same cannot be said, however, of private persons or companies that unexpectedly find themselves on the wrong side of the news. If they can help it, they would rather hide in the bushes than meet with reporters who want to get their side of a story.

I have been asked by people who became the subject of adverse news reports what to do when reporters come calling. The reluctant news celebrities are under the impression that if they keep their mouths shut, the reporters will stop bothering them and the news will die a natural death.

The concern over bad publicity by people who are not public figures or are averse to public attention is understandable. They have everything to lose and nothing to gain from it, unlike political and social personalities who find value in any publicity whether good or bad.

For a struggling businessman, a report that a dismissed employee was awarded thousands of pesos worth of backwages may discourage his creditors from doing business with him for fear that their money will end up paying for the award.

Reaction

A government employee accused of maltreatment by her household helper may be ostracized by her office mates if they read about the complaint in the newspaper. A priest may lose his credibility in his parish in case the story of sexual harassment of "a young man who refused to be identified" is published or aired as a blind item in a radio program.

My standard answer when I'm asked about avoiding unfavorable publicity is, there is no stopping media in their quest for news. Nobody is immune from the probing eyes of reporters and broadcasters. Sad but true, under the mantra of press freedom and the right of the public to know, everybody is fair game. In the hands of an imaginative print or broadcast journalist, an otherwise innocuous event or innocent remark can be transformed to a public interest issue.

The worst thing that a subject of adverse news can do when reporters try to get his side is to say, "No comment." Those words are verbal put downs or brush-offs that encourage reporters to go into a combative mode. Their alarm bells start ringing. Is this person trying to hide something? Is there more than meets the eye in the subject of the news? Are there skeletons in his closet that might be exposed if the report is published?

Faced with an uncooperative news source and an inflexible deadline, the reporter has no choice but make do with the documents at hand or the statements of the informant who is usually the complaining party. In the process, the report becomes one-sided or a press release of sorts.

When the readers see the "no comment" reaction in the news, all kinds of ideas swirl around in their heads. If he is not guilty of the offense being imputed to him, why did he not deny it and explain his side? Isn't silence considered an admission of guilt? How long does he think can he hide from the truth?

Reasons

Admittedly, there are instances when "no comment" is all that a news source can say when asked by reporters, especially if he is caught off-guard or buttonholed in the most unlikely places. (Toilets or powder rooms are no longer safe retreats.)

In situations like these, it is advisable for the party concerned to explain the reason for his inability to say anything beyond those two words. He can say that he has not yet received a copy of the document involved, or he has to consult his lawyers first to make sure he does not say anything that may put him in more trouble, or he wants to verify the authenticity of quoted statements.

By giving an explanation for the otherwise curt reply, the reporter is not left in the dark on why the news source is unable or refuses to give his side of the story. Depending on how the excuse is made, the reporter somehow gets the feeling that he is not being brushed off as an intruder or unwanted caller.

The plus side too is the reporter has something to write other than "no comment" in his story. It is up to the readers to decide whether the explanation given is believable or merely an effort to avoid adding damaging information to an already unpleasant news report.

A word of advice to news sources who ask for time to give their side of a story: make sure you are ready with your comments when the reporters call again to hold you to your earlier promise to them. Another "no comment" or a song-and-dance answer may result in more damaging publicity.

Preparation

It is good practice for people who unexpectedly find themselves in the news to anticipate calls or requests for interview from the media and be ready to give their side of the story. A carefully written statement, which can be read over the telephone or handed out, is a lot better than extemporaneous remarks that are prone to emotional outbursts or damaging slips of the tongue.

A prepared statement can be reviewed and edited for possible errors or inaccuracies in information. Besides, if a phrase or sentence is misquoted or taken out of context by a reporter, the statement can be easily checked to find out who's telling the truth and who's twisting the facts.

Better still, to make sure the readers get a complete picture of an adverse news report, it is advisable for the affected party to take the initiative of writing or calling the section editor concerned to give his comments to the story in question. If he is able to do that before the deadline for the submission of stories, he is assured, more or less, that his statement will see print the following day.

"No comment" does not automatically translate to "no mistake." Neither will it make bad publicity go away. It may only aggravate the problem sought to be avoided.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Law is a profession, not a business

AS a legal practitioner in various courts and administrative bodies for almost four decades, I view the mass leave of absence filed by hundreds of judges and court employees in Metro Manila with sadness and disappointment. (PDI, 10/07/03)

With sadness, because the judges before they become judges, are first lawyers, and lawyers before they are allowed to practice, have taken a solemn oath of office, the most important part of which reads, "xxx that I will delay no man for money or malice."

By taking a mass leave of absence which delay the administration of justice in almost all the courts, the judges delayed justice for money because they lobbied for the doubling of their salary which in the first place, is sufficient if they will just live simple and modest lives.

Truth to tell, many trial lawyers are applying for the position of judges but because of the bureaucratic red tape in the appointment of judges and the needed political endorsements by senators, congressmen, Cabinet secretaries, governors, mayors, etc., very few appointments are made by the Office of the President, thereby clogging the courts of undecided cases.

With disappointment, because I am disappointed at the way the judges "quarreled" with Sen. John Osmeña in pushing for their gargantuan salary increase, blaming the alleged low salary for the slow administration of justice. As a legal practitioner, I know for a fact that the slow administration of justice is due to the non-holding of morning and afternoon sessions by judges which is in gross violation of the circular of the Supreme Court, and the moonlighting of judges in teaching law subjects in various universities and colleges.

The practice of law including being a judge is not a business but a profession!

—PROSPERO B. BANZUELA,
director, Nagmamalasakit na mga
Manananggol ng mga
Manggagawang Pilipino Inc.
(Manananggol),
919-A Vicente Cruz St.,
Sampaloc, Manila

Defecting soldiers were scalawags

THE NATIONAL Democratic Front's (NDF) presentation to the media of two renegade army soldiers (PDI, 10/7/03) is indeed another leftist propaganda step that will surely backfire on them. Cpl. Edward Quirante and Pcf. Boboy Abduhasad, formerly assigned with the 29th Infantry Battalion based in San Luis, Agusan del Sur, under the 4th Infantry Division, Philippine Army, reportedly deserted their battalion and joined the New People's Army, according to NDF-Mindanao spokesperson Jorge Madios.

This incident highlights the CPP-NPA-NDF recruitment standards and the qualification of people who join their ranks. The military records of Quirante show that he had a string of cases and that he was in fact under investigation at the time of his defection. The following are known of Quirante's offenses which underscore his dubious and questionable character:

a. Absent without leave (AWOL) in three instances.

b. Indiscriminate firing.

c. Non-support of his legal dependents; his legal wife filed a case against him.

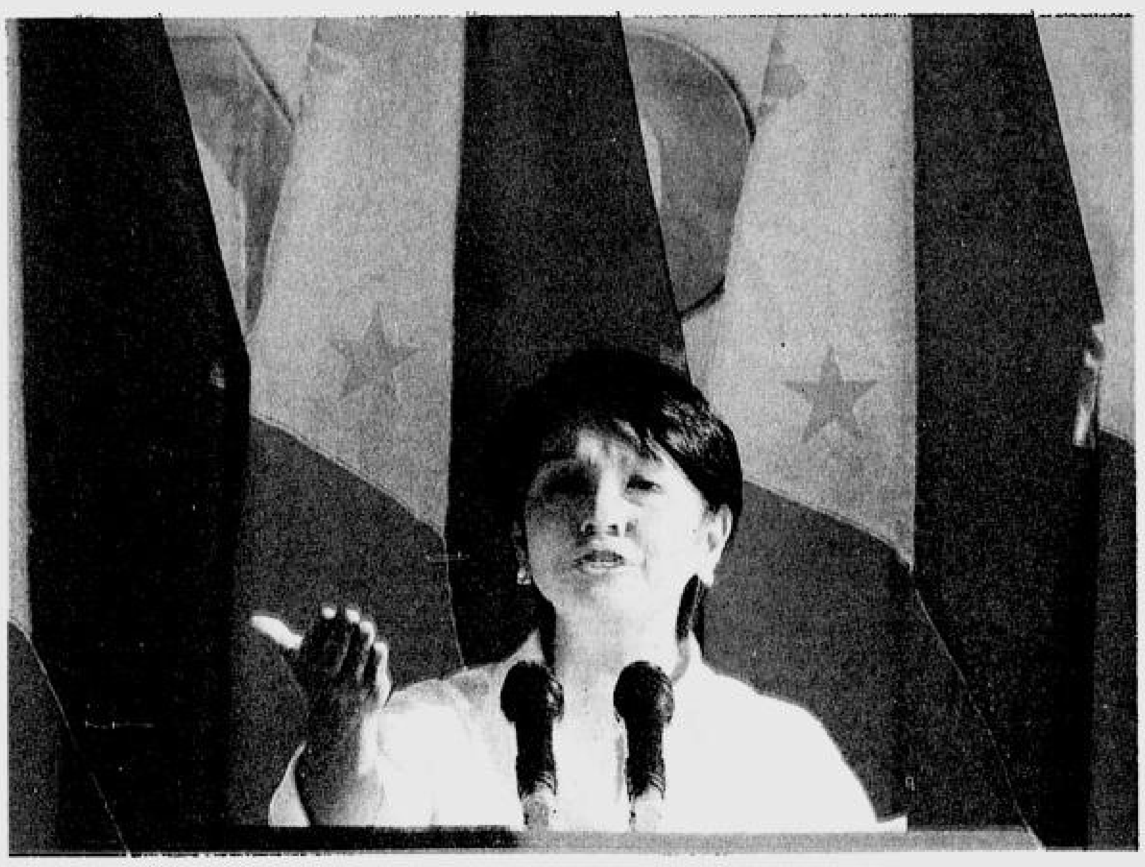
d. Immorality for allegedly maintaining three mistresses.

e. Conduct unbecoming of a soldier for refusing to pay his debts.

f. He is a suspected drug user.

Abduhasad was also suspected of taking prohibited drugs. Sensing that they could no longer hide their anomalous activities, they deserted and joined the NPA. Indeed, both fled to escape administrative and criminal liability for their offenses.

—LTC. NARCISO R. ALAMAG INF
(GSC) PA, public information
officer, 4th Infantry (Diamond)
Division, Office of the Assistant
Chief of Staff for Civil Military
Operations, G7, Camp Edilberto
Evangelista, Cagayan de Oro City



Who is not a liar these days?

IT is difficult to find an honest leader in these troubled times. Even the credibility of our religious leaders has become suspect after revelations of sexual improprieties by courageous victims.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's change of decision to run is not a violation of the proverbial *palabra de honor* expected of statesmen. Did she promise not to run? Her statement on Dec. 30, 2003 was made out of her frustrations over political bickerings which continue to this day. If she changed her mind, that's not lying. On the contrary, she has now decided to take up the challenge to face her detractors. This is what we need of a President who is a woman at that. In addition, she has to prove that she can be a President on her own merits, especially amid questions about the constitutionality of her administration.

I believe those who want to become president, vice president, senator or any other elected official who disagree with GMA's policies should show more substance in their platforms, instead of concentrating on the personal weaknesses of their opponent.

—VIRGILIO B. ABUEVA,
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia,
virabueva@yahoo.com

Focus on the struggle of women

WHILE Partido ng Manggagawa is definitely biased for the poor and working women, nevertheless, it believes that Kris Aquino's personal struggle against domestic violence and sexism is very much the struggle of all women, in general.

The Kris Aquino-Joey Marquez issue has brought to the fore concrete women's issues which the women's movement has been struggling for and against. Firstly, it has directed a challenge to society's "double standard" which is more lenient with men's promiscuity while being acrimonious and judgmental to women. Sexual freedom for men, though hypocritically scorned by moralists, is very much practiced and well accepted as "natural." While premarital sex, extramarital sex and non-marital sex for women deserve the "nothing but a whore" reproach.

Indeed, Marquez is a caricature of the typical man who is a product of a sexist society and in order for him to satisfy his ego and security needs, he makes objects out of women. In fact, he merrily flaunts women as conquests even in his weekly TV show without due respect to his person as a public official. Such utter insults to women!

Secondly, it has brought the issues of violence against women, once again, to the limelight. Contrary to persistent views that women deserve to be violated because they are naggers, they argue, answer back, fight back etc., etc., no one can claim any right to hurt or threaten anybody, including griping male husbands or partners, even when provoked.

And definitely, domestic violence, contrary to what moralists claim, is not a private issue which should be kept in secrecy inside the home. It is very much a social issue. Independent of what happened to somebody like Aquino, violence against women has been a problem for millions of women. Unlike Aquino who has all the support she needed when she asked for it, the majority of women who belong to the lower sectors of society do not have the arsenal to fight against such offenses. In fact, due to dire poverty and the humiliation being inflicted by society, poor women have, more often than not, opted to stay in their pitiful situations.

—JUDY ANN CHAN-MIRANDA,
spokesperson, Partido ng
Manggagawa-Women,
34 Road 3, Project 6, Quezon City

More Fernandos, less Belmontes

IF there is one good thing the Bush state visit did to Quezon City, it is the removal of the squatter families occupying part of Batasan Road.

For many years, these squatters lorded it over all as if they were above the law. No one, not even Mayor Mel Mathay or Sonny Belmonte, ever dared to take them away from where they squatted. Sen. Gringo Honasan even emboldened these squatters by spearheading the repeal of Presidential Decree 772 decriminalizing squatting.

When Batasan Road was widened into three lanes each, these squatter families showed to everyone that not even this public works project can move them even an inch away from where their shanties were built. What is pathetic is that a police station is situated just beside this squatter colony. Can you imagine what this ignominious violation of the law has impressed on young and innocent minds?

I have written Mayor Belmonte a number of letters asking him to show political will, if he has any, by removing this colony blocking the road-widening of Batasan Road. I even cited to him how the Metro Manila Development Authority under Bayani Fernando removed a number of squatter colonies lining Commonwealth Avenue and succeeded in widening this thoroughfare. Unfortunately, I never received any decent answer from him.

With the Bush state visit, the colony was swept away and relocated elsewhere in Caloocan and San Mateo. This action proves that when government is determined to do what is proper and right, it can be done. To a certain extent, this restores taxpayers' trust in government and in the rule of law.

Of course, this has not totally solved the endemic squatting problem in Quezon City. But at least, this is sending to squatters the signal that they cannot just squat anywhere as they are used to. Taxpayers can only wish there were more Bayani Fernandos and less Sonny Belmontes in the government.

—RICARDO JM RIVERA,
Unit 2001, Jollibee Plaza
Condominium,
Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Intellectual Property Office

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS WEEK
Theme: *"KILIG SA ORIG -- Orihinal na Produkto, Kaakibat ng Progreso"*

As the nation celebrates the Intellectual Property Rights Week beginning today until Friday, IP advocates in the country have chosen a fitting theme for the celebration: KILIG SA ORIG -- Orihinal na Produkto, Kaakibat ng Progreso. This Filipino phrase when used in connection with intellectual property rights, gives us a wide spectrum of meanings. "Kilig sa Orig" bespeak of the nation's pride for original Filipino talents and genius in creating things covered by intellectual property rights. "Kilig sa Orig" exudes the enthusiasm over which we value things that are original. "Kilig sa Orig" makes a strong statement that patronizing original products is the country's stepping stone towards economic development. Let "Kilig sa Orig" be a byword among us FILIPINOS!

To commemorate the celebration of the Intellectual Property Rights Week, the Intellectual Property Office and its government agencies and private sector partners in this crusade have organized a week long activity as follows:

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES
Intellectual Property Rights Week
October 27-31, 2003

MONDAY- Oct. 27-28, Ballroom 1, Manila Mandarin

WIPO ASEAN Workshop on Regional Cooperation on Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights

The Workshop, organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPO) will be participated in by government and private sector participants from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

Discussions will focus on the study conducted by the World Intellectual Property Organization on the possibility of establishing an ASEAN Regional Copyright Collective Management System". The event will be officially opened by IPO Director General Emma C. Francisco at 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 27.

Monday, Oct. 27, 2:00 p.m. Exhibit Area, Ground Floor, IPO Bldg., G. Puyat Avenue

Opening of Exhibit on Nutraceuticals & Herbal Products

The Exhibit showcases companies that have developed health products using indigenous plants and herbs. A number of these products are protected by intellectual property rights. The Exhibitors include ABS Gen Herbs International Corp., Altermed Corp., CRD Herbal Products, Ecarma Health Options, RCC Amazing Touch, International, Inc., Splash Manufacturing Corporation, and the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) of the Department of Science and Technology. The PCHRD is the government R & D Council responsible for coordinating and monitoring research activities to improve the quality of health and well-being of Filipinos.

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 6:00 p.m., Ballroom 3, Manila Mandarin

CES Tuesday Club

The CES Tuesday Club is a gathering of Career Executive Service Officers (CESOs) and CES Eligibles from all government agencies. The event serves as a forum for government officials to discuss issues on enhancing public service. This Tuesday, the Intellectual Property Office hosts the event. IPO will make a presentation of its flagship projects on Information Technology and e-Governance. The activity also provides a venue for IPO to promote intellectual property rights consciousness to government agencies and officials at the highest level.

Wednesday, Oct. 29, 9:30 a.m., Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-la

IP Forum: A Multi-Sectoral Roundtable Discussion on IP Enforcement

The Forum aims to introduce the various activities being jointly undertaken by the government and the private sector to effectively enforce intellectual property rights and to increase the level of IP awareness in the country.

One of the projects to be presented is a template ordinance that local government units may adopt and enact to address the issue of IP piracy and infringement at the municipality and city levels.

DILG Secretary Jose D. Lina, Jr. will grace the occasion and will deliver a message of support to the endeavors being undertaken to fight piracy. The DILG Secretary was also requested to strongly endorse the adoption of the template ordinance by LGUs during the event. Endorsements from relevant government instrumentalities, especially from the Leagues of Mayors and Vice-Mayors, the Metro-Manila Development Authority, and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry are also expected during the event. Known celebrities will actively participate in the Forum.

Thursday, Oct. 30, 3:00 p.m., IPO Offices

Awarding Rites: National Essay-Writing Contest and
Invitational On-the-Spot Painting Contests

To create a generation of young Filipinos who will have a high level of awareness of the technological and economic potentials of an effective intellectual property rights system, the IPO sponsors activities geared for students in all levels of the educational system. The themes for the said contests are attuned to the objective of creating IP awareness.

For the past three years, students from all over the Philippines - from as far north as Cagayan and as far south as Sulo have been participating in the National Essay Writing Contest. A total of 354 entries were received this year.

The On-the-Spot Painting Contest is invitational and is participated in by selected schools in Metro-Manila. This year, 28 students will compete for the cash prizes.

VRB Chairman Bong Revilla, Jr. a staunch IP Advocate, and other IPO enforcement partners were invited to grace the occasion.

The Awarding Rites will be liven up with intermission and surprise numbers.

ADVT.

No trail of corporate mess

THIS refers to the disparaging statements written about me in the column of Belinda Olivares-Cunanan titled, "An opportunity to project RP internationally" last Oct. 16, 2003.

Cunanan stated that the undersigned has a reputation for leaving a trail of corporate mess. She cites that some partners of Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. requested its chairman emeritus, Washington Sycip, to remove me and that he did so upon their instance.

I was not removed by, or even requested by, Sycip to leave SGV. He can attest to the truth of this matter. I resigned on my own, while being the youngest female chair of SGV, primarily due to reservations I had with SGV's relationship with the accounting firm of Arthur Andersen. The regrettable events in 2002 involving Arthur Andersen and its clients Enron and WorldCom, proved that my reservations on the matter were well-founded.

My entire professional record belies Cunanan's allegations that I leave a corporate mess, as she so disparagingly alleges. It is not in my nature to discuss personal achievements, but these libelous and unfounded allegations must not be left unanswered.

I spent two decades in SGV, where I was the youngest vice chair from 1989-1992, and the youngest and only female chair thereof from 1992-1996. The corporate changes instituted and new services developed during my term propelled SGV to obtain a 70 percent market share of the Top 100 Corporations in the Philippines, which is unsurpassed to date.

Should I have had a record as tarnished as Cunanan claims, then I would not have been immediately recruited by reputable international accounting firms to be their regional head. On the contrary, upon leaving SGV, I immediately received attractive offers from said reputable firms.

Further, the undersigned was entrusted by international institutions with their investments in the Philippines while I served as president and CEO of Crown Equities, and co-managing director of Argosy Partners. Among these are E.M. Warburg Pincus, J.P. Morgan, Chase Capital Partners, GE Capital, and Bass Brothers of Texas, USA.

I continue to receive offers for leadership positions from reputable financial institutions and international consulting firms to head their regional operations.

The disparaging statements of Cunanan were haphazardly made without verifying the facts, or giving me the courtesy to present my side.

—GLORIA L. TAN CLIMACO,
senior presidential consultant
for strategic projects,
Office of the President,
Malacañang, Manila

'The Correspondents' did not touch Kris-Joey issue

THIS is in reference to the editorial titled, "Sex, lies... and television." (PDI, 9/27/03)

Please allow us to clarify an item that listed "The Correspondents" as one of the news and public affairs shows that is "now looking more and more like entertainment" because of the Kris Aquino-Joey Marquez issue. We believe that assertion in the editorial was without basis since "The Correspondents" never featured the Kris-Joey issue at all.

As a matter of policy, "The Correspondents" strives to abide by its format as one of ABS-CBN's news and current affairs program distancing itself from entertainment issues. The producers believe there are other programs where these topics are more appropriately discussed.

As for the "show-bizzy poses of the reporters and anchors of 'The Correspondents...'" discussed in your editorial, the producers find it unfair that the program was singled out as having reporters who tend to look "show-bizzy" when its team of broadcast journalists like Ed Lingao, Abner Mercado, Jim Libiran, Patrick Paez, Jade Lopez, Anne Torres and Karen Davila are known to have made their names in reporting compelling stories that are of accepted social significance.

These broadcast journalists have worked hard all these years to build a credible reputation in the industry.

—MALOLI ESPINOSA-MANALASTAS,
vice president for government,
corporate affairs and public relations,
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., QC

Wrong caption

RE the photo caption on the US president's state visit (PDI, 10/18/03), please take note that the records of the US State Department bear the following items on US state visits to the Philippines in pertinent years.

- President Richard M. Nixon's state visit: July 26 -27, 1969
- President Bill Clinton's state visit: Nov. 12 - 13, 1994

What your caption probably refers to is the address of President Bush before the joint session of the Philippine Congress, the second time since President Dwight Eisenhower delivered his address before the same body in 1960. President Eisenhower had a three-day state visit from June 14-16, 1960 when he met with President Carlos P. Garcia. Afterwards, he travelled by sea to Taipeh.

—NATALIA M.L.M. MORALES,
Philippine Council for
Foreign Relations Manila,
nataliam91@hotmail.com

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2003
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
A17

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Jueteng return to Chavit country hit

By Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—Priests in Ilocos Sur have denounced in a pastoral letter on Sunday the resurgence of jueteng operations in the province of "juetengate" whistle-blower Luis "Chavit" Singson.

"Now, after two years, we again speak out as one ... because of the resurgence of jueteng. (Jueteng operations) were discreetly done before, but now these have even reached the heart of the province (in Vigan City). We speak out because it is part of our role as priests, hoping that what we are saying will not go to waste," the Ilocos Sur Priests' Assembly said in a two-page pastoral letter written in Ilocano.

The letter, signed by the group's president Fr. Vicente Avila, was read in all parishes during Masses yesterday.

The priests said it was "very sad and shameful" that jueteng had returned to Ilocos Sur because Singson's supporters, local mayors and thousands of residents supported Singson in condemning former President Joseph Estrada for allegedly accepting jueteng payola.

"It is very sad that the resurgence of jueteng in different towns came as the 2004 elections draw near. It is very hard to remove the suspicion that the huge earnings from jueteng would be used (by politicians) to buy votes and hire goons," they said.

Singson, who revealed before a Senate hearing in 2000 that Estrada accepted jueteng money, welcomed the priests' statement condemning the return of jueteng in Ilocos Sur.

"I am very happy with this development from the Church. I hope that the Church and other organizations in Ilocos Sur would continue their vigilance against jueteng and other irregularities. Every citizen of Ilocos Sur must help if we are to succeed," Singson said told the INQUIRER.

Singson said he would ask authorities to remove police officials who fail to stop jueteng operations in their areas.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Senior Supt. Mario Subagan, Ilocos Sur police director, for comment on the reported return of jueteng operations in the province.

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT is exactly 532 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

SAMBUOKAN FEST
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Students from Compostela Valley compete in street dancing held at the Mati Cultural Sports Complex yesterday.

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Cops rule out NPA hand in slay of election exec

ANGELES CITY—Police investigating last Friday's slaying of the city's deputy election officer have ruled out the involvement of communist guerrillas in the murder.

Senior Supt. Jaime Restua, city police director, said New People's Army assassins have been stricken off the list of suspects as investigators pursue new leads on the identities of the killers of Ponciano Palo, 58.

Palo was the first victim of election-related violence as Pampanga politics heat up for the May 2004 elections.

Restua said the leads were based on the information provided by a lone witness, a neighbor of Palo's at the L and S Subdivision here.

Palo was gunned down at 7:30 p.m. Friday in his house while he was entertaining his fellow Commission on Elections officials.

The witness said Palo's attackers were two bonnet-wearing men aboard a motorcycle. Restua did not give other details.

In an interview on Saturday in a safe house somewhere in Pampanga, lawyer Cora Jane Baleros, Angeles Comelec director, and three other Comelec supervisors said they did not see the killers.

Baleros said they were all busy giving instructions through text messages when they heard a gunshot.

She said she believed she was the target, noting that Palo stood in front of where she sat during the attack. The bullet hit Palo on the back.

A top police official in Camp Olivas, the headquarters of the Central Luzon police, said they are still not discounting the involvement of warring politicians in the murder of Palo or the attempted assassination of Baleros. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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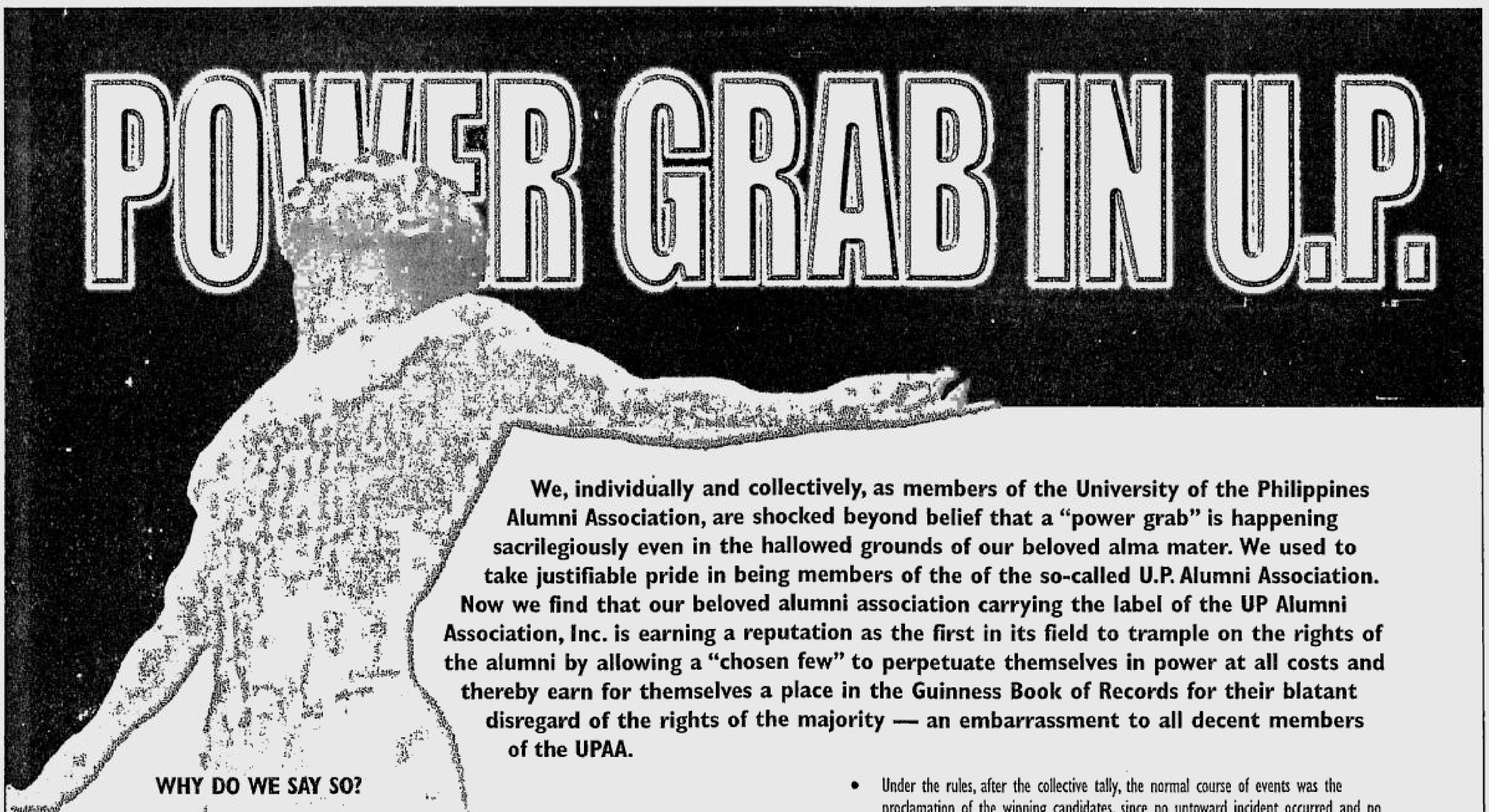

We, individually and collectively, as members of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association, are shocked beyond belief that a "power grab" is happening sacrilegiously even in the hallowed grounds of our beloved alma mater. We used to take justifiable pride in being members of the of the so-called U.P. Alumni Association. Now we find that our beloved alumni association carrying the label of the UP Alumni Association, Inc. is earning a reputation as the first in its field to trample on the rights of the alumni by allowing a "chosen few" to perpetuate themselves in power at all costs and thereby earn for themselves a place in the Guinness Book of Records for their blatant disregard of the rights of the majority — an embarrassment to all decent members of the UPAA.

WHY DO WE SAY SO?

In the last election for the Board of Directors of the UPAA, we relied on the rules prescribed under our by-laws and on the method of election under the current rules prescribed by the Election Committee (COMELEC) constituted to run this election. The three members of the COMELEC organized under Art. XI of the Amended BY-LAWS of the Association prescribed the rules to be observed by all the alumni to elect the Board of Directors of the UP Alumni Association, Inc. The COMELEC was empowered to prescribe the rules, but it is assumed that true to their sense of responsibility to the Association, the rules would be fair and constant, and not to meander to serve the interests of an "anointed" group or to elect a new set of directors of their exclusive choice, in complete disregard of the mandate of the majority. Fairness and justice demands that the rules should offer no surprises in electing the directors.. All alumni were duty-bound to follow the following rules as they were prescribed, in order to have a fair, honest, orderly and respectable election which redounds to the maintenance of the integrity and the unity of the Alumni Association:

- The Rules and Regulations Governing the Elections of the UPAA Board of Directors for the Term 2003-2006 signed on November 7, 2002 by the COMELEC composed of Napoleon T. Vergara, Chairman, Ruby G. Alcantara and Victor C. Avecilla, members, constituted 23 directors allocated in accordance with the representation of the group of units representing the whole University of the Philippines System.
- The last day for the qualification of voters was April 15, 2003. To qualify, voters had to file an application form in time to facilitate verification as to their alumni status and to pay the corresponding annual fee within the stated time frame.
- The last day for casting of ballots peacefully ended at 5:00 P.M. on May 30, 2003.
- The canvassing of votes under the auspices of the Election Committee actually took place on June 16-18, 2003. This was performed by the Board of Canvassers duly-constituted by the COMELEC and in the presence of the poll watchers of the respective parties.
- Under the rules, after the canvassing of the votes duly registered in compliance with the rules, the precinct tallies were duly signed by the Board of Canvassers composed of the duly authorized representative of the UPAA and countersigned by the poll watchers of the respective parties.
- The final count per precinct was consolidated and no dispute between any of the parties as to the canvassing of the votes was registered at the canvassing date, June 18, 2003.
- There was no dispute officially or even informally that under the collective tally of the Board of Canvassers the Group 21 candidates won handily by a majority of at least 1,500 votes.
- Under the rules, after the collective tally, the normal course of events was the proclamation of the winning candidates, since no untoward incident occurred and no irregularity was noticed or designed.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

To the surprise of the general body of Alumni, in disregard of their own Resolution dated June 9, 2003, the biased COMELEC relaxed the rules and allowed the inclusion of 1,703 new voters who had never complied with the rules circulated to the members prior to the election. These 1,703 were irregularly given the privilege to cast their ballots within 30 days from June 18, 2003, the last day of the legal canvass, an irregularity which cannot be denied.

- What is more appalling is the fact that the payment of the annual dues for 1,703 alleged alumni for the purpose of allowing them to qualify was crudely and openly receipted for under the name of the Upsilon Sigma Phi Association, leaving no doubt as to the conspiracy to stuff the ballot box, with the votes of electors, who had not qualified since their qualification to vote was not supplied by April 15, 2003 as mandated by the Elections Committee
- The records also show that out of the 1,703 names submitted on April 16, 2003 (one day after the deadline) who had allegedly qualified, only some 1,100 were verified to be members of the alumni. These 1,100 voters were belatedly allowed to cast their votes.
- Assuming, arguendo, that the Elections Committee was empowered to relax its own rules, the 1,100 ballots additionally cast was not even sufficient to overcome the lead of the candidates of Group 21 approximating at least 1,500 votes so their inclusion should not have altered the results of the election under the predetermined rules.
- On September 11, 2003, long after the voters had cast their votes, the UPAA COMELEC had the gall to advertise in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and some other newspapers to inform all the graduates of 2002, under an irregular resolution known only to them, that they are allowed to still cast their ballots before October 10, 2003. (Note that around 6,000 ballots were mailed to the 2002 graduates in February-March this year and only around 400 were cast.) More than 2,500 voters from Batch 2002 allegedly were able to cast their ballots before the October 10 deadline.
- The lead then having been established, at all costs, in favor of their favored party, with the addition of some 3,800 irregular or illegal voters, the final official tally was conducted by COMELEC and the alleged "winning" candidates were proclaimed on October 11, 2003. This was after an interregnum of almost four months after the authorized alumni had voted and the Board of Canvassers and the poll watchers had already executed their tally of the votes cast as of the June 14, 2003 deadline previously prescribed.

To express our indignation, we hereby affix our signatures and formally request the President of the Philippines, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and/or the incumbent Board of Regents not to sanction such a perfidy by appointing the Upsilon Sigma Phi "proclaimed" President of the U.P. Alumni Association as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines for the ensuing term, so as to spare the President or the Board of Regents from being a party to such a blatant anomaly by unwittingly being made a party to the appointment of a person who has not in fact been duly elected by alumni under its rules.

We the undersigned U.P. Alumni manifest that we recognize the Group 21 led by former U.P. Regent Nelia T. Gonzalez as the duly elected officers of the U.P. Alumni Association for 2003-2006.

We, the members of the U.P. Alumni Association, Inc. hope that we can prevail upon the lackeys of the ruling party to restore sanity and justice into the U.P. affairs involving and affecting the alumni so that **WE CAN ALL STAND AS ONE IN REPRESENTATION OF ALL THE SECTORS OF THE U.P. ALUMNI AND PRESERVE THE PEACE IN THE UNIVERSITY.**

Emanuel V. Soriano
Former UP President

Edgardo Angara
Senator, former UP President

Emil Q. Javier
Former UP President

Atty. Antonio Meer
Chairman Emeritus, U.P. Law Alumni Assoc.
As an alumnus

Estrella F Alabastro
Secretary, Department of Science and Technology

Willam D. Padolina
Former Secretary, Department of Science and Technology

Bellaflor Angara-Castillo
Congresswoman

Dr. Angelito G. Manalili
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Dr. Carolyn S. Sobritchea
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Atty. Regina P. Geraldez
As an Alumna

Ramon P. Paje
Pres. UP Beta Sigma Fraternity Alumni Assoc.

Daisy J. Serrano
UP Chemistry Alumni Foundation

Reynaldo Guioguio
Dr. Reynaldo V. Guioguio
Pres. Tau Gamma Phi Alumni, Inc.

Elpidio L. Rosario
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Atty. Victor Lazatin
Pres., Sigma Rho Alumni Assoc.

Buddy Garbanzos
Former Pres., UP College of Mass Comm. Alumni Assoc.

Alfredo C. Tumacder
Pres., Cocolife, former Pres. UP Law Alumni Assoc.

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Former Director, Bureau of Animal Industry

Jacinto Mantaring
Pres., Samahan sa Pilipinas ng Industriyang Kimiko

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IN 'KAMIKAZE' BIRTHPLACE

Buddhist monks offer prayer for world peace

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—As dozens of incense sticks burned and the haze rose before the statue of Kannon, the goddess of mercy, at least 10 Buddhist monks chanted in ancient Shingon language an hour-long prayer for world peace.

Clutching their *jyuzu* (Buddhist rosary) and clad in elaborate robes, they gathered before a clearing at the Lily Hill here where 59 years ago on Saturday, young Kamikaze pilots first took off from Clark for suicide flights to make Japan win in World War II.

This was the group's sixth year of pilgrimage to this site of the birth of the Kamikaze in Clark, a former American air base located 100 km north of Metro Manila.

On Oct. 25, 1998, Bishop Ekin Ikeguchi, the Great Buddhist bishop of Japan, declared Mabalacat town, on which part of Clark sits, as a City of World Peace.

At the forested hill where the bishop and the Mabalacat city government built the Goddess of World Peace Shrine, some 100 Filipino and Japanese guests joined them in silent prayers.

Rev. Yuju Matsumoto said the solemn rites did not mean to praise the suicide pilots of the Japanese Imperial Army.

In halting English, he explained their visit. "We do not want to forget the Kamikaze. We know they did not want to fight. The lesson of war (is about) the importance of life. Also, we want to communicate peace, world peace," he told the INQUIRER.

At the shrine, the emblem of the Shingon sect's world peace campaign is encircled and painted in red. To its right is a marble epitaph lifted from Shinjo's Akamatsu's book "Diary of the Last Man in the Kembu Group."

Akamatsu's account said the Kembu Group was formed from "a composite of soldiers from different units combined into one fighting force."

It said this formation was a "last-ditch" effort to defend Clark Field, which the Japanese Army captured from the United States Air Force that developed Clark beginning 1903.

The defense of Clark, according to the account, began on Dec. 5, 1944 until Sept. 20, 1945.

From Clark, Lt. Rikichi Tsukada of the Army Defense Force and Rear Admiral Ushie Sugimoto of the Naval Defense Force led the 30,000 fighters.

Of that number, local historian Daniel Dizon said only 800 survived by taking a last stand at Lily Hill. Heavy, almost non-stop, bombardment killed 600 more. About 200 survived the assault, many of them retreating to and hiding in Mt. Pinatubo's forests.

"War is not good. It kills. We must avoid war," Matsumoto said.

The peace pilgrims offered flowers at the Kamikaze east and west airfields in Mabalacat's Barangay Cacutud and Clark's ammunition dump.

'Human bombs'

According to the Clark Development Corp., which recently installed a marker at the west airfield, this was where the first Kamikaze pilots, called the Special Attack Force, took off on Oct. 21, 1944 to attack the US naval forces east of the Philippines.

"The airfield was used by the Kamikaze up to Jan. 10, 1945, when they transferred to Taiwan," the CDC marker said.

At the east airfield where a peace memorial park had been put up amid a lahar field, the Mabalacat government installed a relief of the Philippine and Japanese Nissyou-ki flags. A big Torii (gate) welcomes visitors.

In Saturday's occasion, photographs of war scenes and of unknown Japanese soldiers were exhibited at the shrine.

In nearby Bamban, Tarlac, some Japanese proceeded to visit yet another peace memorial engraved with the figure of Vice Admiral Takijiro Ohnishi, said to be the one who organized the Kamikaze team in Clark.

On a hill there, soldiers built by their hands an air-raid shelter that survived five decades.

Locals like Jonie Manipon, 70, had cared for what they called a cave. They had also gathered the bones of unknown soldiers that have yet to be buried.

Congress honors Cavite top cop for anti-drugs drive

CALAMBA CITY—The man whom President Macapagal Arroyo called the "Kilabot ng mga Druglords" in her State of the Nation Address last July was honored in simple rites held Thursday at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City.

The Congressional Oversight Committee on Dangerous Drugs (COCDD) conferred the "Congressional Recognition Award" to Cavite police director Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales.

Rosales led relentless campaigns to curb the illegal drug menace in Cavite, Quezon and Las Piñas.

He was the first-ever recipient of the award given out by the House committee on dangerous drugs and the Senate committee on illegal drugs. It was also the first for the Calabarzon police command.

The President cited Rosales for turning down P35 million in bribe money from a Chinese drug ring.

COCDD chair Sen. Robert Barbers said Rosales was "more than worthy" of the award. He described the police officer as "very hardworking and a fighter."

Barbers said he hopes the award would inspire the police to fight the proliferation of illicit drugs.

Rosales, 47, who graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1978, said fighting drug groups had become his personal commitment since he was assigned as a commission officer in Calabarzon.

Among Rosales' accomplishments, according to Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, is the arrest of Panukulan, Quezon Mayor Ronnie Mitra and his Chinese cohorts in October, 2001. The group was trying to ship 503 kilos of shabu (metampethamine hydrochloride), worth more than P1 billion to Manila from a port in Real, Quezon. Police said the haul was the biggest seized illegal drugs at that time.

Rosales was also instrumental in the busting of a clandestine drug laboratory in Barangay Cabangan, Silang, Cavite last July 12.

Police arrested four Chinese believed to be the operators of the drug lab, and two Filipinos during the raid in a secluded house near Tagaytay City. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Brains behind bomb blasts in General Santos arrested

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police nabbed on Friday an alleged Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) leader tagged as the mastermind in the June 24, 2000 six successive bomb blasts at the commercial district of the city.

The suspect was identified as Guindatu Mamantal Dulang, 51, and a resident of Barangay Balong, Datu Piang, Maguindanao.

Dulang alias Commander Bimbo was arrested around 11:45 a.m. Friday near Biocrest Feedmill, National Highway in Barangay Apopong by members of the Criminal Investigation Branch of the local police force.

He was pinpointed by Jimmy Salamat and Edgar Aton Gubat, also among the suspects in the 2000 rash of bombings here, as the one behind the June 24 bomb attack in this city.

Six successive blasts rocked the commercial district of this city, killing one person and wounding several others.

Charges of murder and multiple frustrated murder were filed against Salamat and Gubat, who are now languishing in Lanton City Jail.

Also included in the charge sheet was Dulang, who has an arrest warrant issued by Municipal Trial Court in Cities Branch 3 Judge Gaydifredo Ocampo.

Dulang was the leader of the MILF 212nd Brigade operating in South Cotabato, Sarangani and Davao del Sur.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said he heard the name Commander Bimbo but has yet to check it if he is an MILF commander.

Dulang denied he was behind the bomb attacks. He claimed that he owns the Macmod-Dulang Arrastre and Stevedoring Services, which supplies the manpower component of big department stores and malls here.

"I will not do anything that could harm my business here," he said. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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B: chamber
C: Isuzu's Direct Injection engine
none of the above
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Cory, Sin defend Davide

From page A1

Numerous pro-Davide text messages continued to swirl through the country's cell phone systems. One even purported to give the cell phone number of "Dishonorable Cong. Gilbert Teodoro who led Davide's impeachment." It added: "Please call him or text your dismay at him. Pls. pass."

The Visayas

In Cebu, Davide's home province, a noise barrage, a protest caravan and street rallies are scheduled for today.

Judges, court employees, businessmen, people from the religious and other sectors will also wear black today.

Cebu Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Pampio Abarintos said judges and court employees nationwide would continue to wear black shirts, armbands or ribbons until Congress withdraws the impeachment case or until the Senate decides to stop the impeachment trial.

Abarintos did not discount the possibility of suspending court operations. This will depend, he said, "if the situation calls for it."

Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia said he would not impose the wearing of black among Capitol employees but provincial workers were free to wear black at work.

Davide supporters will meet at 5 p.m. at the Redemptorist Church grounds, in an activity spearheaded by the newly organized Citizens for Judicial Independence.

Carlos Co, president of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said he and other representatives from different business organizations would join the meeting.

Cebu City Rep. Raul del Mar said he and other legislators would make a last-ditch effort today to stop the transmission of the impeachment complaint.

In Bacolod City, the Peace Advocates of Negros (Pan), an organization of society groups, called for the "impeachment from our votes" of Negrense members of the House of Representatives who signed the impeachment complaint.

Central Luzon

In San Fernando, the boycott campaign spread quickly through text messages. Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, a Lakas-CMD member, passed on one such message to reporters.

"Wear black, black band or ribbon on Monday in support of Davide. Boycott San Miguel products. Let's teach politicians and greedy businessmen a lesson," the message read.

The Coalition for the Advancement of the Promises of Edsa (Care), in a press statement, assailed the representatives who signed the impeachment complaint against Davide.

Judges and court personnel in Nueva Ecija said they would boycott all SMC products starting today. The judges also agreed to post messages of support for Davide in their vehicles. These will carry the statement "Save Davide, Save the Judiciary, Save the Country."

Judge Lauro Sandoval, president of the judges association of Nueva Ecija, said they were supporting Davide fully. He also said that RTC executive judges in Central Luzon on Monday afternoon would join a motorcade from the UP campus in Diliman, Quezon City to the Batasang Pambansa complex.

In Pangasinan, former Court of Appeals Justice Teodoro Regino said most private lawyers and court staff in Pangasinan would wear black armbands to support Davide and the judiciary.

Southern Tagalog

In Lucena, a major multi-sectoral rally to be attended by farmers, lawyers and court employees, students, religious and members of non-government organizations will be staged this morning.

Activist priest Raul Enriquez, chair of the Kapatiran at Luntiang Alay Para sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan or Kaakbay-Quezon, said the demonstrators would also assail the "treacherous political matrimony" of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Cojuangco.

Enriquez, also the spokesperson of Gomburza, a militant group of priests nationwide, said the organization strongly condemned the impeachment. "All Gomburza priests across the country echo their strong support for Justice Davide in all our homilies."

Lawyer Jun Flores, president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Quezon chapter, said the organization and the judiciary employees would also hold a similar mass action.

Rene Cerilla, Ugnayan ng mga Magsasaka sa Quezon president, said coconut farmers would be at the forefront of the protest mobilization.

"The Davide Supreme Court is our last hope in our struggle for the return of the coconut levy fund that has long been enjoyed by Danding," he said.

Cardinal Sin

Sin said he was not convinced by any of the accusations against Davide.

"I personally do not believe in any of the accusations being thrown against the Chief Justice. I know that he is very sincere and forthright in the execution of his duties," Sin said in a statement issued yesterday, adding:

"I have known Chief Justice Davide all these years. His character, competence and honor have been more than sufficiently proven in the past."

"Let us pray that he may stand firm in the graces of the Lord in this time of trial. May he come out stronger and more committed to serve God and country," he said.

The Council on Philippine Affairs also came out yesterday in support of Davide.

In a statement, Copa chair William Esposo said the group condemned "the recklessness of those responsible for bringing this country to the brink with the precipitous move to impeach Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide."

Meanwhile, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Teddy Casiño said the group would not join today's rally. "No one invited us. Besides, he (Davide) can handle the situation himself," Casiño said in Filipino.

In Congress, one of the principal authors of the second complaint, Rep. Wimpy Fuentebella, called on Davide to "stop acting like he is above the law," and to respect the impeachment process provided for in the Constitution.

"There is nothing political or malicious in the impeachment complaint that I, along with Rep. Gilberto Teodoro Jr. filed against the Chief Justice. Mr. Davide can call us 'evil plotters' as much as he wants to, but I will not go down to the level of name-calling and fishwives' confrontations," Fuentebella said. *With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla Gomez; PDI Visayas Bureau; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Tonette Orejas and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Solution to crisis at hand, says De Venecia

From page A1

before putting their name to the complaint.

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye Jr. said the Lakas-CMD party would hold an emergency meeting today in a last-ditch attempt to convince its members to withdraw their support for the impeachment complaint.

Bunye told dzBB radio that the leaders of the Lakas party, and not Malacañang, were in the best position to convince some of its members to drop their support to the impeachment claim.

Win-win?

De Venecia, practicing what he called "shuttle diplomacy," said the groundwork has been laid for a "win-win solution" that would avert an impeachment trial at the Senate.

A source in the NPC acknowledged that the odds in favor of a settlement were as high as 80 percent.

Even as the negotiations for a settlement are in their final stages, however, the House of Representatives will officially transmit the Articles of Impeachment against Davide to the Senate today.

A House source privy to De Venecia's efforts at "peacemaking" said the transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment would not affect the settlement.

"Just like in any case or court proceeding, once the opposing parties decide on an amicable settlement, the case is deemed dropped," the source said.

In a prepared statement, De Venecia said: "We are moving toward an honorable settlement—one that acknowledges the oversight powers of Congress, while preserving the principle of fiscal autonomy of the judiciary."

The NPC source said the congressmen who impeached Davide were open to hearing whether the Chief Justice would acknowledge that Congress indeed had the right to look into government expenditures on the principle that it had the power of appropriation.

The source in the House noted that De Venecia had been shuttling between the camps of Davide and Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, the nephew and political heir apparent of Cojuangco. Teodoro is the NPC leader in the House.

The same source said that De Venecia's efforts were the basis for President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement over the weekend that a settlement could still be worked out.

Delicate stage

In his statement, De Venecia said: "These explorations are at a delicate stage and it will help if partisans on both sides tone down their rhetoric."

He said that he initiated discussions for a settlement because of the disastrous effects that an impeachment trial of the country's chief magistrate will cause.

"We are acutely aware of the collateral damage such a confrontation would inflict on our political institutions," De Venecia said. "We have thus taken constructive and positive steps to avert such a confrontation."

"We cannot and must not let the country down," he added.

De Venecia noted that only a few days ago, the House committee on justice voted down as insufficient in substance the first impeachment complaint filed against Davide in connection with his swearing in as President of Ms Macapagal at the height of the Edsa II revolt.

Also named respondents in the case filed by deposed President Joseph Estrada were seven other justices of the high tribunal.

De Venecia described the first complaint as the "larger and more dangerous impeachment complaint" as this involved "more than half of its (Supreme Court's) 15-man bench."

As of Friday, the House secretary general verified the signatures of at least 88 lawmakers who had signed the impeachment complaint against Davide.

Under the rules, if a complaint is endorsed by at least one-third of the House, or 76 members, the complaint will be transmitted automatically to the Senate, which in turn will convene as an impeachment court.

A quorum requiring the presence of at least 114 House members is needed when the chamber resumes session today at 1 p.m. for it to transact business, particularly the transmittal of the Articles of Impeachment.

Backroom operators

If the backroom operators of Lakas succeed in forcing enough signatories to change their minds, the Articles of Impeachment may not even be transmitted to the Senate.

Alvarez rushed back home from the United States to make a last-minute attempt to convince Lakas party members.

But Salceda remained adamant.

Based on the judiciary's own financial report, Salceda said, the Supreme Court spent a total of P720 million from 2001 to 2002—or 28 percent of the P2.6 billion budget for the period (P1.4 billion in 2001 and P1.2 billion in 2002).

This, he said, meant that the Chief Justice spent more than the 20 percent limit (some P520 million) set under Presidential Decree No. 49. "Once the real figures are disseminated to a wider audience, I believe that more congressmen will sign the impeachment case," Salceda said.

He said the signatories believe that "the cloud of suspicion" hanging over Davide's head was a far bigger threat to the economy and the country's institutions than the uncertainty and political turmoil that the impeachment would cause.

"There is no political motive in the case. The Joker (Arroyo) conspiracy angle is all crap," he said.

Alvarez said President Macapagal was not expected to attend today's meeting.

Bunye said that while the President wanted the issue to be resolved as soon as possible, Malacañang would not step into the controversy in deference to the independence of the three branches of government.

Ms Macapagal has kept her neutral stand on the issue despite a clamor from the Integrated Bar of the Philippines to take a clear stand on the controversy. *With a report from AFP*

Congress, Supreme Court on collision course

From page A1

saulting the structure of an independent judicial system.

In defending the Supreme Court, Davide said that under the Constitution, "no impeachment shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year." Since Davide himself is under fire from the complaint, his declaration can no longer be accepted ex cathedra by his detractors who are determined to remove him from the tribunal at all costs.

Since Davide has rejected calls for his resignation and indicated he will stonewall on his position, the budding crisis appears to be moving irreversibly toward an impasse with the legislature, as Senate President Franklin Drilon, who will preside over the impeachment tribunal, has said the Senate has no choice but to decide on the constitutionality of the complaint.

The complaint followed closely the dismissal of the first impeachment complaint accusing Davide and seven other justices of allegedly conspiring to swear into the presidency then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the height of People Power II that deposed Estrada.

Deadlock

Drilon has urged the Supreme Court to exercise restraint in making a ruling on the constitutionality of the second complaint because doing so will put the Court in an awkward position.

But a ruling by the impeachment tribunal is tantamount to the usurpation by the legislature of the constitutionally mandated function of the Supreme Court, as the highest judicial authority of the land, to rule on constitutional issues. Drilon's call underlined the deadlock facing the Senate and the Supreme Court.

Pressure is being put on Davide to resign, which he has rejected, as a way out of the impasse. Among those who have asked him to resign and exercise "judicial statesmanship" are congressmen belonging to the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) who spearheaded the second impeachment move.

This call affronts the Supreme Court because the NPC congressmen have the gall to shift to the Chief Justice the responsibility to defuse a crisis which was sparked by their impeachment action.

Already the judicial branch, and lawyers' organizations, are up in arms against the impeachment action initiated by the House, revealing the deep fissures in the country opened by the impeachment. The sense that the country was plunging irreversibly down the slope of a constitutional crisis was heightened by a number of developments, including:

(1) The streets were getting agitated and stirred up by the impeachment, as civilian groups were mobilizing to demonstrate in support of the court and to denounce the impeachment action, spearheaded by cohorts of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, founder of the NPC, a minority partner of the Lakas ruling coalition in the House.

Boycott San Miguel

Davide has said the complaint was made "as a lever for both political and economic advantage and an instrument to exact vengeance on the Chief Justice," under whose administration the court has handed down landmark decisions adversely affecting Cojuangco's business interests. Citizens' groups have started a campaign to stage a boycott of the products of Cojuangco's flagship company, San Miguel Corp.

(2) The markets have reacted negatively to the crisis provoked by the impeachment—an event that has exacerbated uncertainties in the business community as the country approaches the presidential elections next year.

(3) The impeachment generated a fall-out damaging to the Macapagal administration. President Macapagal-Arroyo came under criticism that she had not defended the Supreme Court, whose authority has been relentlessly assaulted by groups which have been adversely affected by its decisions.

Ms Macapagal has said she has stayed above the controversy on the ground that she respected the principle of separation of powers. This is a flimsy excuse because her neutrality amounted to taking sides in favor of the group that engineered the attack on Davide and the judicial system.

Even some of the loyal allies of Ms Macapagal, including Sen. Joker Arroyo, have insinuated that she did not lift a finger to stop the impeachment move mounted by the Cojuangco cohorts, suspecting her of cutting a deal with Cojuangco to enlist his support in the 2004 elections.

(4) Given that the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats has more members in the House than the NPC, Ms Macapagal had the means to abort the impeachment move. Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. did not escape the accusation of having colluded with NPC because he feared the break-up of the Lakas-NPC coalition that could unseat him from the speakership.

NPC appears to have put the administration under the gun, but it is important to ask if Ms Macapagal can't win in the presidential election in May without Cojuangco's support, and whether it is in the public interest to maintain the Lakas-NPC coalition.

A public perception that the Supreme Court has been sacrificed to make way for the President's political deals to ensure her election appears to be growing. The fence-straddling by Ms Macapagal brings to mind her opportunism during the movement seeking the resignation of Estrada in 2001. As Vice President then, Ms Macapagal joined the movement calling for the ouster of Estrada at the last hour—only after it appeared that the movement was unstoppable.

The constitutional issue over the second impeachment complaint appears to be building up into a crisis that has all the elements of getting out of hand.

Although the impeachment trial has not started, there are signs that Davide is emerging as a rallying figure of a growing public revulsion of the abuse of legislative power and the influence of vested economic interests in Congress and even in the executive department.

This unholy alliance will come in fuller view when the impeachment trial unreels on the merits of the complaint.

Namfrel warns of anarchy, fraud in May elections

From page A1

cording to Concepcion.

The Comelec, upon the suggestion of Congress, is eyeing the automation of only 10 areas with the biggest voting populations.

Concepcion said the poll body should not have entertained the suggestion because "the law is very clear on the requirement that the elections be 100-percent automated."

"His decision cannot be delayed," Concepcion said of Abalos' stand on selective automation.

Abalos identified Cebu, Pampanga, Baguio, Negros Occidental, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Rizal, the National Capital Region and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), including Isabela and Cotabato cities as the areas that would get Automated Counting Machines (ACMs) for the May elections.

The Comelec earlier said that only the ARMM, Metro Manila and Greater Manila Area would be provided with ACMs. Abalos said the Comelec did not have enough ACMs to cover every voting center in the country as required by the Congress oversight committee. But in a telephone interview on Tuesday night, Abalos said the Comelec en banc had decided to extend the coverage because they had acquired more ACMs.

Marsha Cordero, Negros Occidental elections supervisor, said the province would be provided with about 120 ACMs. She said barangays would be clustered so that one ACM would be provided for not less than 5,000 but not more than 12,000 voters.

Negros Occidental has a voting population of 1.3 million and Bacolod City, about 200,000. The computerized counting in the province will allow the Comelec to proclaim winners within 5 to 10 hours, removing the anxiety and tension that accompany the long wait for the proclamation of winners during elections, according to Cordero.

Concepcion said he was "worried" about the Comelec's ability to deliver credible election results with selective counting and canvassing of votes, considering the number of candidates.

In the presidential race, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced her candidacy on Oct. 4 after initially declaring that she would not run for president. Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson and former senator and education secretary Raul Roco have also announced that they will run.

All parties are awaiting the decision of actor Fernando Poe Jr., who is being pushed by his friend, former President Joseph Estrada, and members of the opposition to challenge Ms Macapagal's bid.

Quick count

Concepcion also urged Abalos to make good his promise to accredit Namfrel to do a quick count for next year's elections.

Last month, the Comelec approved Namfrel's application to help in the education and training of election assistants, but the poll body did not accredit Namfrel for the conduct of a quick count and the checking of indelible ink.

Namfrel's quick count is ahead of the Comelec results by two to three days, and would be needed if the Comelec could not automate nationwide.

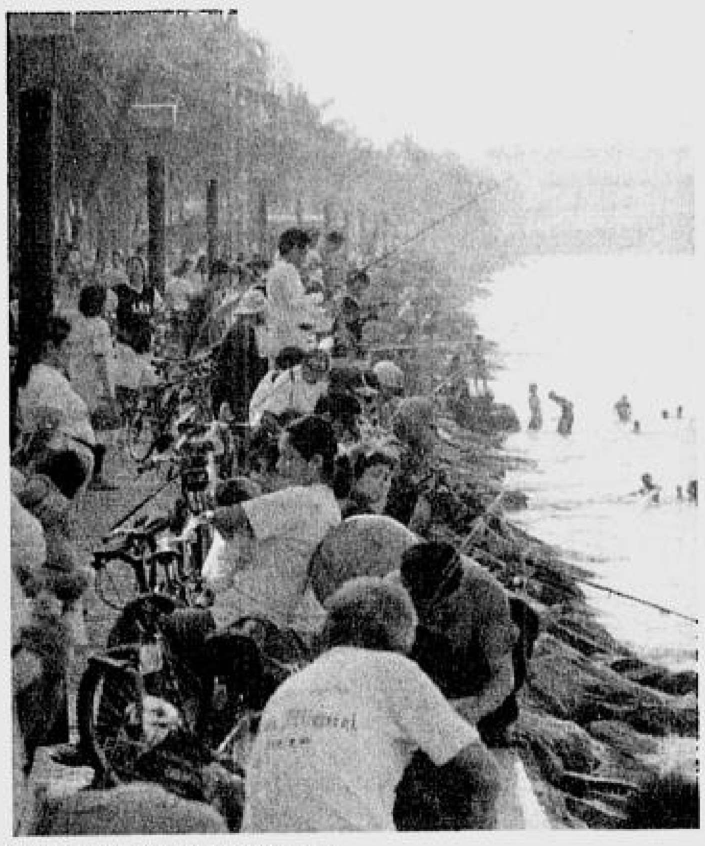
"If the Comelec is going to accredit us, why not accredit us now? We still have to prepare," Concepcion said. Namfrel would need around 250,000 volunteers to do the quick count and checking of indelible ink on the certificates.

Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz said that the time difference between the availability of the results of automated counting and canvassing and of manual counting would put a cloud of doubt on the victory of the winning candidates.

"There's a difference of two, three, even six weeks before they know the results of manual counting. Will the people then believe those numbers? Whoever will become president will live in a cloud of doubt ... and not have a clear mandate," Luz said in a phone interview.

Luz, who also chairs the Makati Business Club, said that chaotic elections would send the signal to investors that the country was not politically stable and that this would affect the economy.

He said that the Namfrel, which has been doing a quick count since 1984, was waiting for the Comelec to take decisive actions. "We're making plans but it's hard to prepare when the Comelec itself does not know what to do."



WEEKEND FISHERMEN
Men and boys line the Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard in Manila, waiting for that rare fish to take the bait. BOY CABRIDO

City to adopt KL model of asset management

By Christine Paita

RESIDENTS of Muntinlupa City may see more houses rising in the city at a fraction of their usual costs when the local government adopts Kuala Lumpur's model of asset management.

In an interview, Muntinlupa Mayor Jaime Fresnedi told the INQUIRER that he learned about the Malaysian city's budget-saving practice in the recently concluded seminar on city revitalization and poverty reduction attended by mayors from Metro Manila and other Asian cities.

Fresnedi said he was particularly interested in adopting the Malaysian delegates' ideas on conserving city assets.

"The idea here is that we should not always be looking into the construction of new buildings, but we should focus more on the maintenance of such and other assets," Fresnedi said.

The mayor said that the city can significantly reduce expenses if it will allocate a budget for maintenance rather than construction.

The seminar participants were members of CityNet, a network of cities and government agencies in Asia and the Pacific Region.

The network "facilitates the exchange and sharing of managerial and technical information experiences" among cities, Fresnedi said.

Delegates from France, Japan, India, Bangladesh and other countries attended workshops where they identified problems in their cities and came up with solutions through the exchange of ideas or "tested or failed practices."

Fresnedi said that he shared with the other delegates Muntinlupa's socialized housing initiative, particularly the city's partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

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Ailing...

From page A24

bringing the Filipino Siamese twins to New York, where they are awaiting surgery.

Together with Kenneth's aunt Heddie, Sarmiento brought all of Kenneth's medical records to Dr. Willy Lopez, a neurosurgeon at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center earlier this week.

Lopez said that Kenneth's operation is a very high risk one.

But the doctor marveled at the way the Villas had cared for the young boy these last four years.

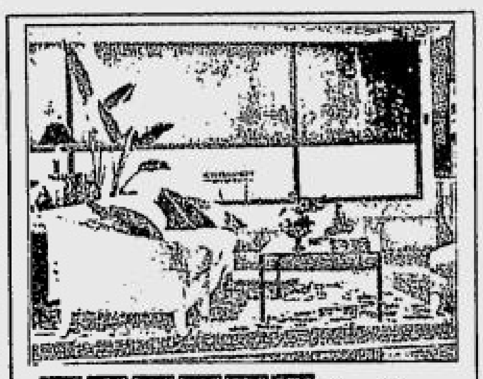
Lopez also suggested sending Kenneth's records to Dr. Shunji Tomatsu of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at St. Louis University School of Medicine in Missouri.

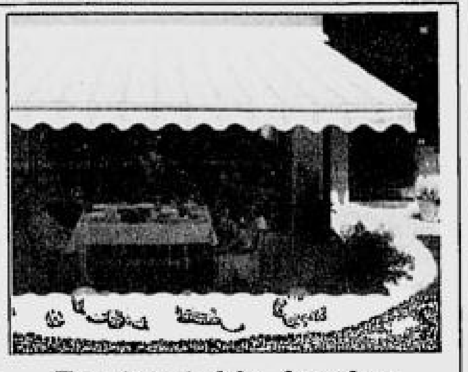
Tomatsu has been working on new treatments for Morquio patients over the last 10 years.

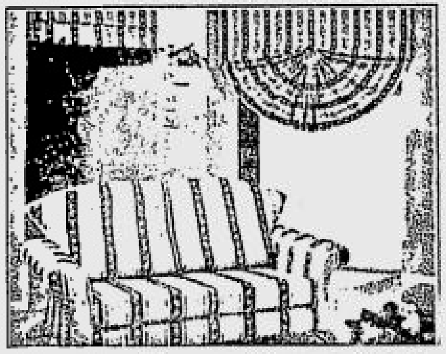
Kenneth retains an unsinkable hope and faith that he will one day be well.

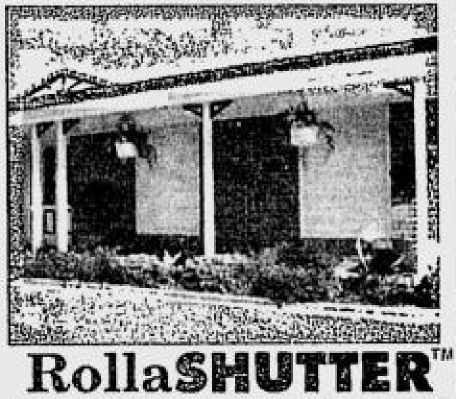
"Papa Jesus will help me get well," Kenneth said in Filipino.

Those who wish to help Kenneth may call Heddie Villa at 457-7008 or (0916) 600-0548.









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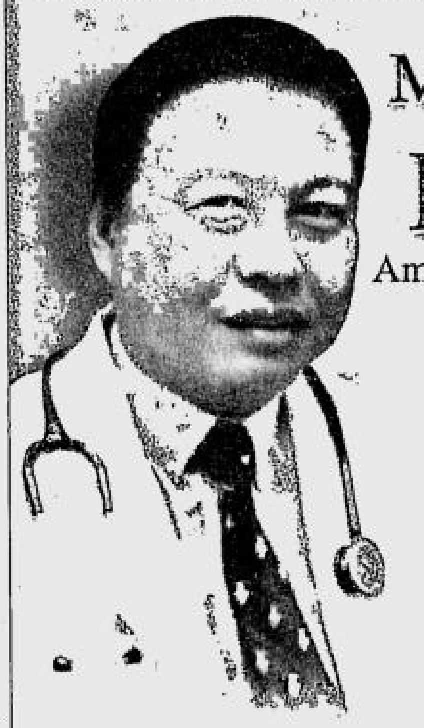

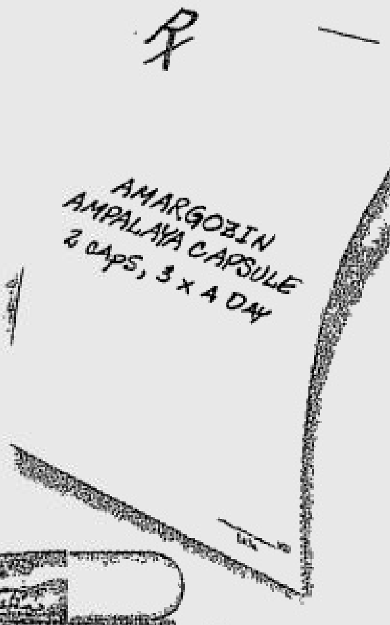

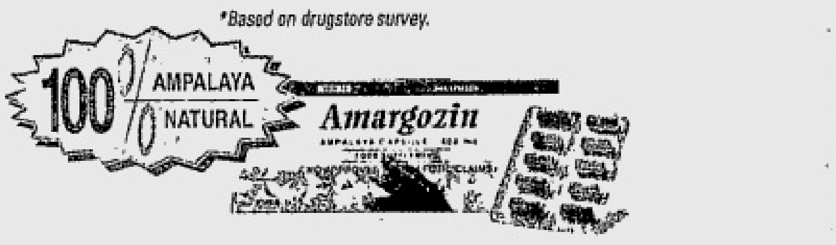

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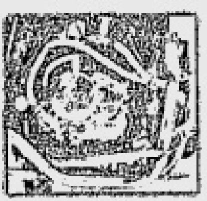

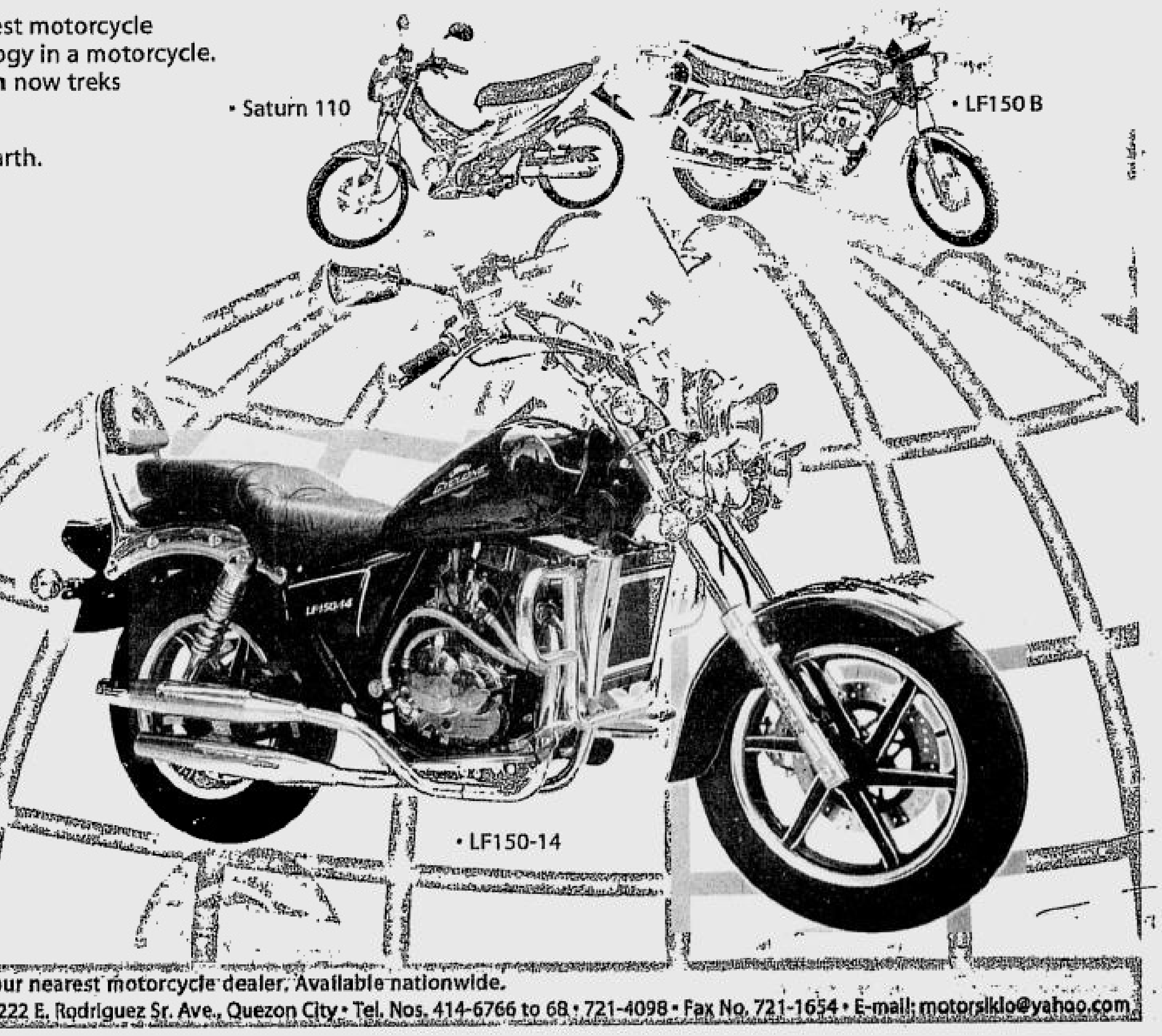

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REMEMBRANCE
A woman picks the grass around the cross that marks the grave of a loved one at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Taguig. Filipinos will remember their beloved dead come All Souls Day. ERIK ARAZAS

'Goblins' to invade PNP

By Christian V. Esguerra

CALL it confused, but what the heck? It will all be in the spirit of fun and goodwill.

On Wednesday afternoon, national police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane will shed his police uniform and play Santa Claus while dressed in a Halloween costume.

Ebdane will play a gracious ghosts and grant the wishes of some 100 orphans and 700 children of policemen during a Halloween party at Camp Cramey.

"There won't be any trick, just treats, coming from Ebdane and other top police officials," said Director Ricardo de Leon, concurrent chief of the directorate for police community relations and the directorial staff.

During the program at the PNP park, the generals, including the children's parents in the PNP, will make concrete commitments as an early Christmas present to their dependents and subordinates, De Leon said.

"The idea is to grant them treats before they could even make a wish list," the PNP spokesperson told the INQUIRER.

This is how the list of promises would most likely be like according to De Leon: From Ebdane, lower crime rate and safer streets at Yuletide; from comptroller Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, an early release of Christmas bonuses; from De Leon, no "kotong" cops.

"One assurance that we could give the public is that there won't be any policeman who would be soliciting funds, especially during the holidays," De Leon said.

"Instead, we'll be in search only of opportunities for service," he added.

The children's fathers in the PNP, on the other hand, will be made to deliver early New Year's resolutions to their kids and in full view of their superiors.

Some will promise they would not womanize or waste money on gambling, De Leon said.

Others will ensure that they would be home early as often as possible. Still others will try to always make Sunday a family day, he added.

"More than an annual Halloween party," he said, "the idea is to have an activity that would help policemen forge a much stronger bond with their families."

De Leon said promises to strengthen family ties were part of the PNP's campaign against officers with illicit and extra-marital affairs.

Ebdane was first to make a pledge.

Wednesday's Halloween activity will have four "ghost houses" at Camp Crame, where children could snatch goodies guarded by several policemen in scary costumes.

De Leon said the "trick or treat" would be a welcome respite before the PNP buckled down to work in the observance of All Saints and All Souls Day.

BF says no to peddlers, yes to pedalers

By Christine A. Paita

A FUNNY man once said, "*Sa ikauunlad ng bayan, bisikleta ang kailangan.*" (For the nation to advance, let's give bicycles a chance.)

That line, which put a comic yet practical twist to the slogan of the Martial Law era Bagong Lipunan and sent the comedian to detention, may just make a comeback.

Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Bayani Fernando yesterday encouraged the use of bicycles as a means of transportation.

"We can reap economic and environmental benefits from this. It will help boost the bicycle industry, and there will be less pollution," Fernando said over the MMDA's morning radio show over dzBB.

The chair said that his former constituents in Marikina City had already begun using bicycles in lieu of motor vehicles as early as two years ago.

He said it worked for Marikina because the streets had been cleared of obstructions like illegal vendors and the lanes were used only for their designated purpose.

Fernando disclosed that the MMDA was studying the setting up of bike lanes from Marikina to the Elliptical Road in Quezon City and to the Ortigas and Makati business districts.

Playful tots burn building

THERE is a reason why children should be told not to play with fire.

Yesterday, children burning copper wires accidentally torched an abandoned apartment building at the corner of Mayon and Cuenco streets in Quezon City.

No one was hurt in the 30-minute incident that began at 12:30 p.m.

While the building was reportedly ready for demolition, the blaze sent many residents in adjacent houses panicking.

The fire occurred as Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. called the attention of Bureau of Fire officials for the high number of fire incidents that hit Metro Manila last week.

Lina said the BFP should place its personnel on heightened alert to be able to swiftly respond to fire incidents.

He also called on BFP chief Francisco Senot to draft guidelines and advisories on fire prevention, especially on the eve of All Saints and All Souls Day.

"The only way to save precious lives and properties during fires is for our men and women in the field to be prepared and ready, and for us to further improve our response time on such occasions," Lina said.

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Dr. Leibrecht is the founder and CEO of Schiller University one of the affiliate schools of Southville Foreign Colleges. The educational system is fully coordinated in their campuses in Leysin, Switzerland, Heidelberg in Germany, Paris in France, London in England, Madrid in Spain, their main campus in Dunedin, Florida, and their SFC campus here in Manila. Their systems allow the student choice of campus every term and assume full credit for whatever units they have already finished.

The Dr. Walter Leibrecht Scholarship program will accept 24 full scholars with stipends depending upon the ITR of their parents. Another 100 partial-scholarships are included in the program and qualified students will pay only half of the tuition fee.

"It is our vision to mold our 124 scholars each year into a recognizable academic elite who will become leaders, movers, and shakers in the Philippine and international settings — in the same manner as the Fulbright Scholars," said Dr. Ibanez, beaming with pride.

The scholarship and grant awards will not only be based on academic excellence but will look into the over-all achievement of the candidate. Community development efforts, special creative talents, and achievements in the field of athletics will receive due consideration for as long as the students exhibits at least an above average intelligence quotient.

Students can avail of application forms at the SFC campus on Yokohama corner Luxembourg Sts, BF International Village, Las Pinas City, or they can also apply directly through the SFC website at www.sfc-colleges.com. Deadline for submission of applications will be on October 31, 2003. For further details please call 820-9181, 820-5952, 820-6774 and 825-5147.

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Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Ailing boy's faith moves mountains

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Contributor

KENNETH Villa woke up on the morning of his eighth birthday on Oct. 14 to an outpouring of support from many kind-hearted strangers who were moved by his story published in the INQUIRER.

The young boy suffers from a rare mucopolysaccharide (MPS) disorder called Morquio Syndrome. There are only three known cases in the Philippines.

Abandoned by his parents and cared for by his aunts, Kenneth has been bedridden for the last four years.

Hooked to a ventilator, Kenneth is unable to move. Yet through the years, in spite of his condition, he has shown an unshakeable faith and a positive outlook in the kindness of people.

According to his aunt, Heddie Villa, the phone started to ring at 7 a.m. on Oct. 14, with people asking how they could help, or wanting to donate to a fund that would enable Kenneth's family to take the boy to the hospital for a checkup.

No doctor has seen Kenneth in the last four years, yet he has miraculously survived, largely by "the grace of God" and the devotion of his family who looks after him round-the-clock.

"Our cellular phone could not cope with the amount of calls and text messages that came in," Heddie said, her voice shaking. "We are so grateful to all the people who helped us and those who continue to pray for Kenneth. This is really an answered prayer. We cannot explain it any other way. God has been faithful."

Now, there is a little over P250,000 donated by people from all walks of life. An advertising agency executive gave P20,000 and has pledged to rally her employees to donate. A group of doctors from Tuguegarao are pooling together funds to give to Kenneth, while merchants from Cebu and other provinces sent in money early Tuesday morning.

"A lot of people who did not even give their names had called in," Heddie said in Filipino. "They just asked how Ken is and asked for the account number. We know that life is hard and yet, a lot of people still managed to give out of the kindness of their hearts. God's hand is really at work."

The current fund is now sufficient for a checkup and confinement, but not for a highly delicate surgery that, if successful, could wean Kenneth from his ventilator and enable him to at least sit up.

A man who just identified himself as "godfather" had come to visit Kenneth on his birthday. He gave Kenneth a 3315 Nokia cellular phone and pledged to purchase the ventilator that prolongs Kenneth's days. He is currently negotiating with Pulmovent, a Sta. Ana-based company, to scale down the debt of the Villa family.

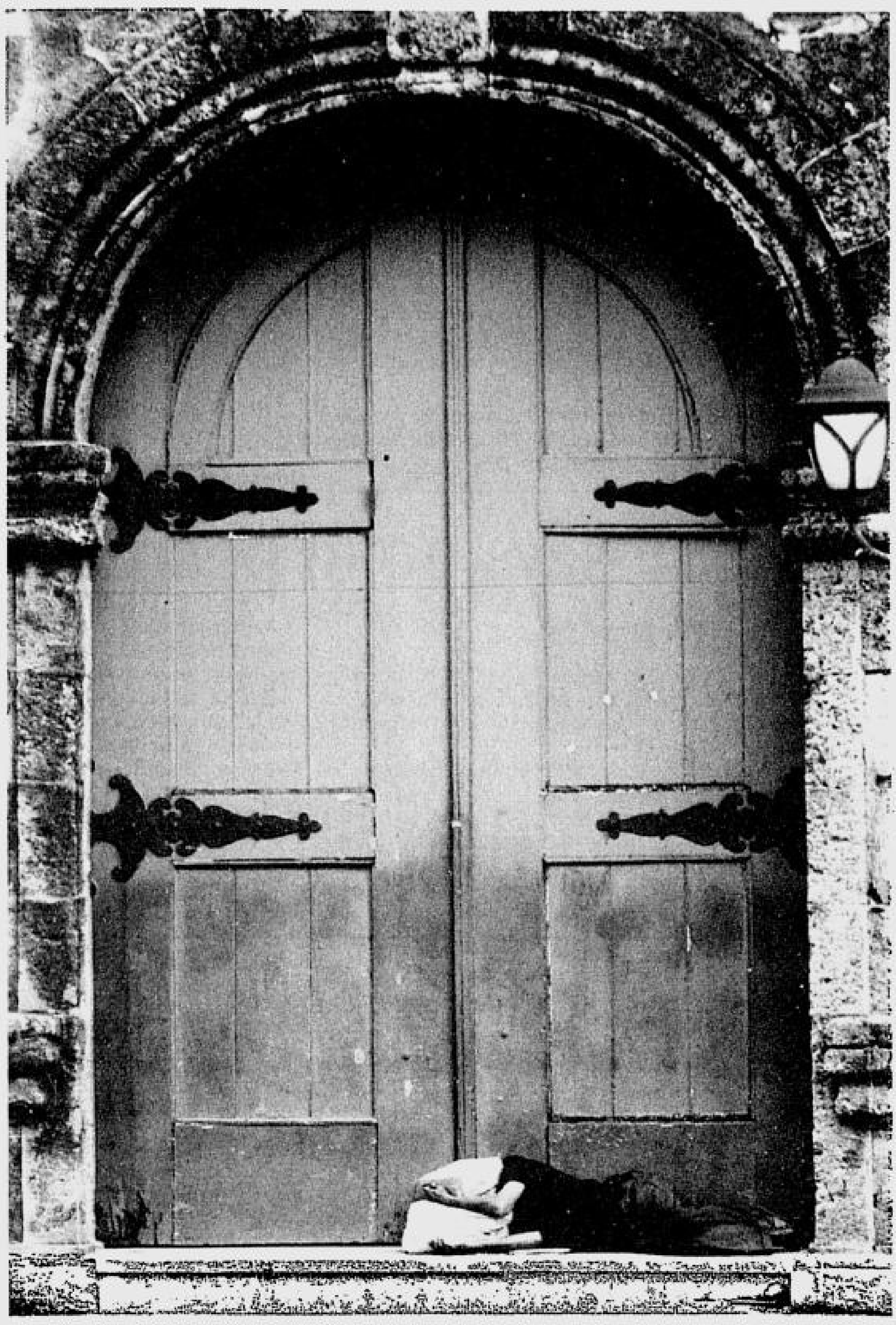
Some visitors came with cans of Nido—"the only milk that Kenneth takes," according to his aunts. Others came with bottles of vitamins—Ceelin, Incremin and Polynerv. Still others brought with them birthday cakes, books and toys.

But the biggest blessing so far, and one that gives the Villa family great hope, is the assistance being offered by the Philippine Airlines Foundation. The PAL Foundation, through its representative Menchu Sarmiento, has been helping find the best means to help ease Kenneth's plight.

The PAL Foundation is the same organization responsible for

AILING/ A21

A RARE disease has laid to waste the body of Kenneth Villa, 8. At left, Villa before he was stricken with Morquio's Syndrome. ELLEN TUYAY



IN GOD'S KEEPING
Framed by a massive stone arch and solid wood doors, a beggar gets a moment's peace in a House of God located in Malate, Manila. ERIK ARAZAS

Poll officials brace for last-minute registration rush

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

WITH less than a week remaining for the registration of new voters, election officers are preparing for longer queues in the next few days.

In the second district of Quezon City, acting election officer Mary Ann de Mesa said she was expecting the number of registrants to "double."

The Comelec office for the city's 2nd district had been receiving about 1,000 registrants every day for the past few weeks. The district has the largest voting population in Quezon City.

Aside from the "last-minute-habit" which many Filipinos have, the last week of registration coincides with the semestral break of most universities.

In preparation for the expected rise in registrants, De Mesa told the INQUIRER that they would concentrate the registration at the Quezon City Comelec main office near the City Hall by pulling out the computers from their satellite offices in at least four barangays.

Most of the new voters who lined up in front of the Comelec's office in Quezon City on Saturday were college students and fresh graduates.

New voters Mel Gecido, 20, and her sister, Angelica, 19, arrived at about 6 a.m. They were given numbers and were surprised to be 960 and 961, respectively.

Mel said she learned that 435 registrants ahead of them arrived at 4 a.m.

They finally got their turn and their forms processed at about 7:30 p.m. or 13 hours after they arrived.

"I thought we were playing Survivor. We are very tired," Mel said.

De Mesa said she and her staff of about 10 people were no match to the hundreds of registrants.

"Even our computers bog down. Almost everyday, we have one computer taken for repairs," she related.

On Oct. 23, COMELEC temporarily suspended the validation of registered voters for election officers to concentrate on the registration of new voters. The registration of new voters ends on Oct. 31.

Validation of voters work will resume on Nov. 3.

City officials find money in garbage

By Margaux Ortiz and Tarra Quismundo

THE MAKATI government has hit paydirt when it collected a total of P235,000 in fines from litterbugs in the city.

Members of Makati's Solid Waste Management Division have arrested a total of 5,337 litterbugs from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30.

SWMD chief Raul Javier said the number of violators arrested for the period was 45 percent higher compared to last year's 2,995.

He said that of the 5,000 violators, 3,569 were transients while 1,768 were Makati residents.

Javier said 542 violators were made to attend a seminar and slapped with corresponding fines, which amounted to P234,900 in additional revenue for the city government.

In Manila, city officials have lined up several ordinances pertaining to sanitation and waste management.

Also, a total of 11 ordinances on garbage disposal are currently in effect in Manila.

Due to the confusion, Department of Public Services head Rafael Borromeo has proposed a consolidated waste management ordinance before the city council.

Borromeo, in a note, said that such an ordinance, which would dissolve the other ordinances, would "curb the city's problem on garbage dumping," and would also raise garbage revenue collection.

Man dies fighting for trash dump

TIRSO Cañete yesterday died fighting for a pile of garbage, which he had claimed to be on his turf in Tondo, Manila.

Cañete, 31, a scavenger and resident of Vitas, Tondo, died of a bullet in the head, police said.

SPO1 Raul Olavario of the Western Police District said Cañete yesterday morning confronted a group of men who were collecting garbage at the dump site in Pier 18, Leonel Transfer Station, Vitas.

Olavario said the victim had been collecting trash on the site as a means of living for a long time.

At 3:50 a.m., the suspects returned with a pistol and shot the victim, hitting him in the left eyebrow.

Police have yet to identify the suspects.

Tarra Quismundo

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TENNIS: BNP Paribas Masters 2003; 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; Star Sports—Catch tennis action from Paris, France.

BASKETBALL: Sonics vs Bulls, Game 6, 1996 Finals; 8 a.m. (r-7 p.m.); Solar Sports—After compiling a 72-10 win-loss record for the 1995-1996 season, Chicago rolls through the NBA Playoffs, beating Seattle, 4-2, in the Finals to capture the NBA title.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

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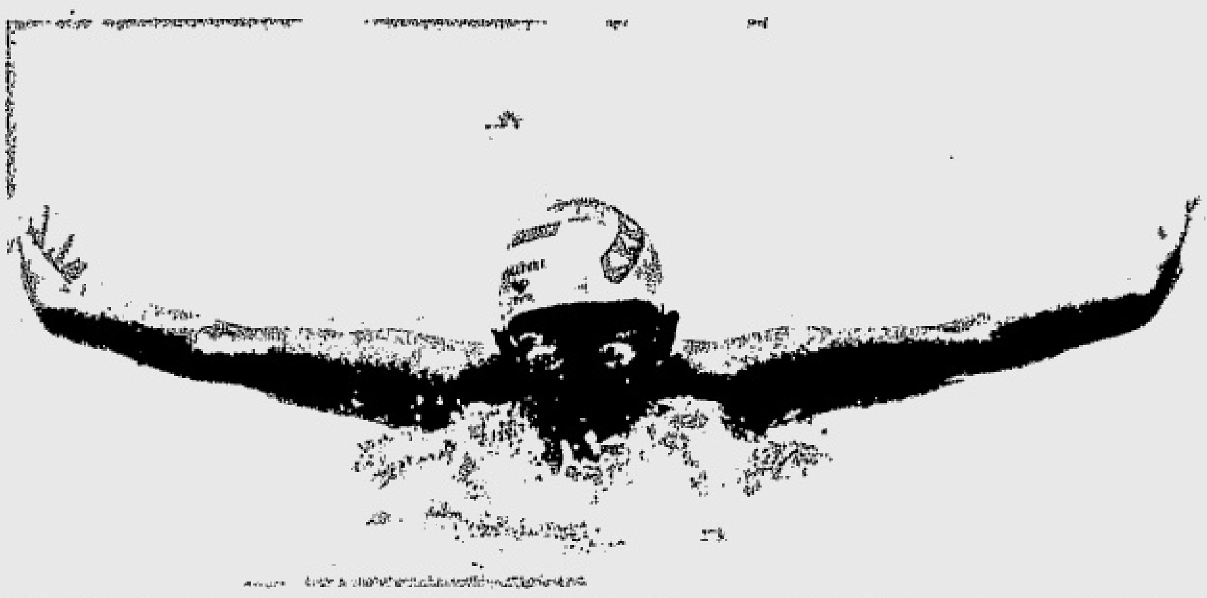


NIANH Lyn Marie Acain of Northern Mindanao churns her way to victory in the 200m butterfly. EDWIN BACASMAS

Davao, Iligan bets dominate Palaro action

See complete results on Page A27

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Bata shoots down Germans /A30

■ Florida takes W-Series /A31

■ Wind Blown, Midnight Lady triumph /A32

Games host wants piece of SEA Games

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—With all indications pointing to a successful staging of the 2003 Palarong Pambansa, Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo yesterday said Lanao del Norte would press its bid to serve as one of the satellite venues of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

She said the P500-million Mindanao Civic Center (MCC), which boasts of world-class facilities now hosting the current Palaro, is an ideal off-Manila site for SEAG sports that are popular in Mindanao.

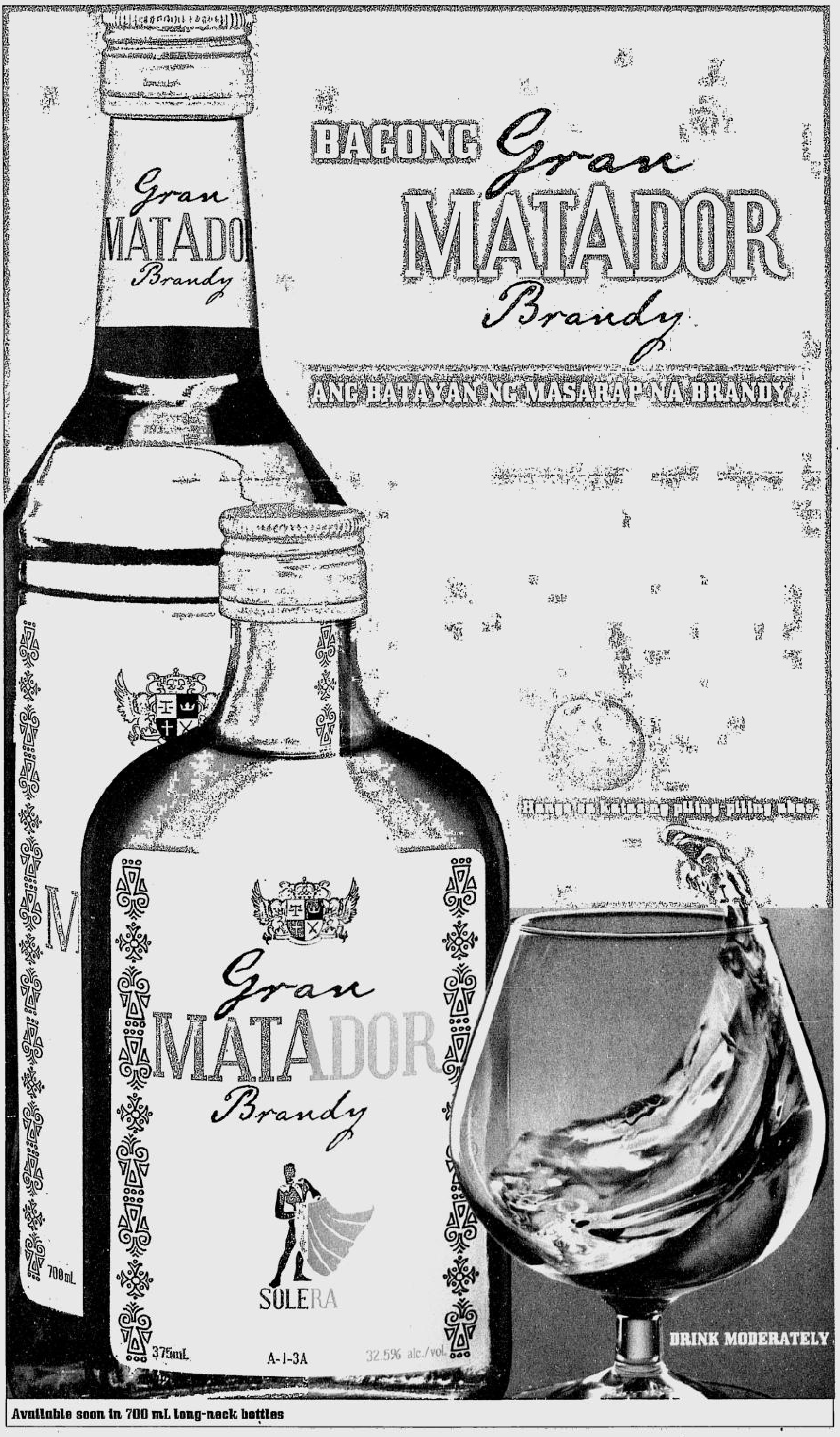
"We have already sent a letter to the Philippine Olympic Committee but until now they haven't replied," said Dimaporo. "I think MCC is at par with the best in Southeast Asia if not the whole of Asia."

She said the province could host shooting, archery and other indigenous sports like sepak takraw, pencak silat and arnis.

The MCC, which sits on an 18-hectare bayside property in Barangay Sagadan, also caught the attention of no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Palaro opening guest, who lauded its architecture that embodies both the Christian and Muslim cultures.

The landscape was done by volunteers and employees of the provincial government led by no less than the governor.

"I made the landscaping all around the complex, it served as my therapy during those times that the Palaro was postponed," said Dimaporo of the ongoing sportsfest that was reset three times since May.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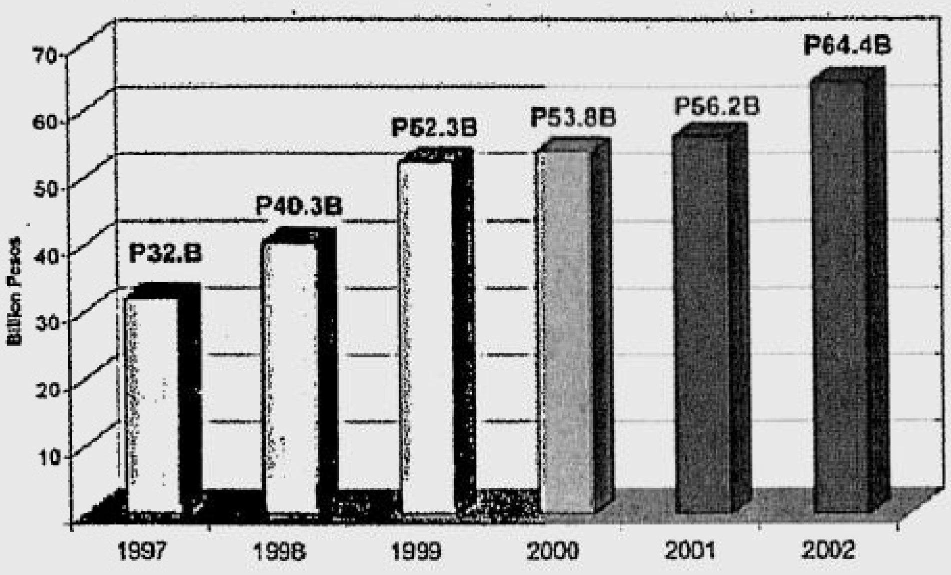
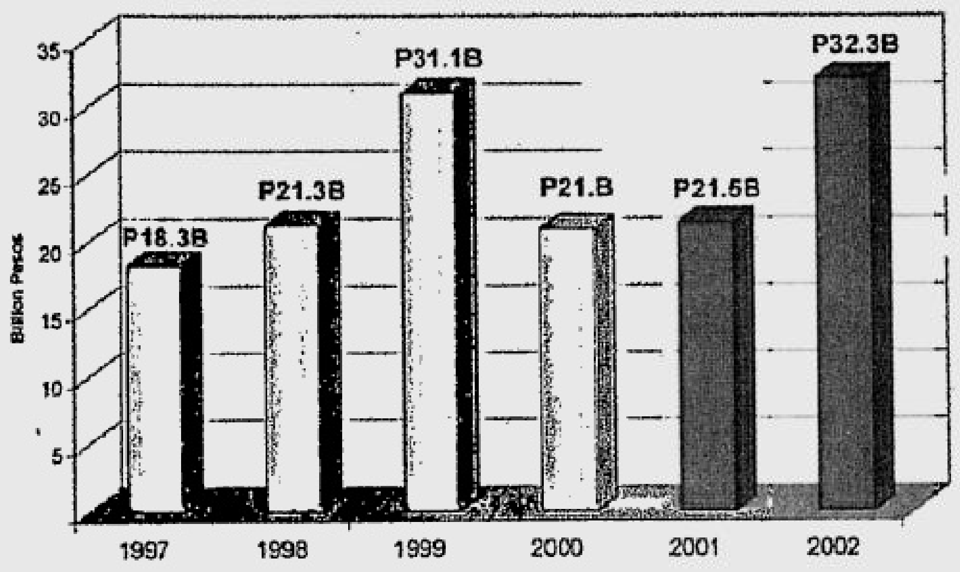
- The GSIS today under Winston Garcia has undertaken substantive reforms and system improvements and given numerous membership benefits
- PGM Garcia is carrying out the difficult and politically-unpopular move of posting and reconciliation of member and agency payments and accounts, and is aggressively collecting receivables pursuant to his mandate to protect and enhance the GSIS fund.
- Under PGM Garcia, for the fiscal years 2001 and 2002, the COA rendered a "clean" opinion of the financial statements of the GSIS—a first in GSIS history.

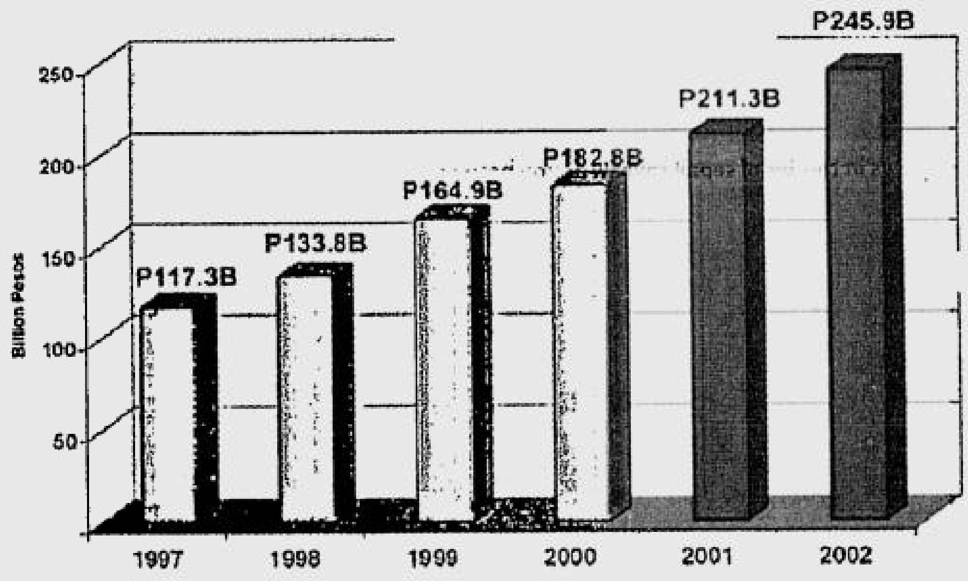
Highest Gross Revenues — P64.351 billion



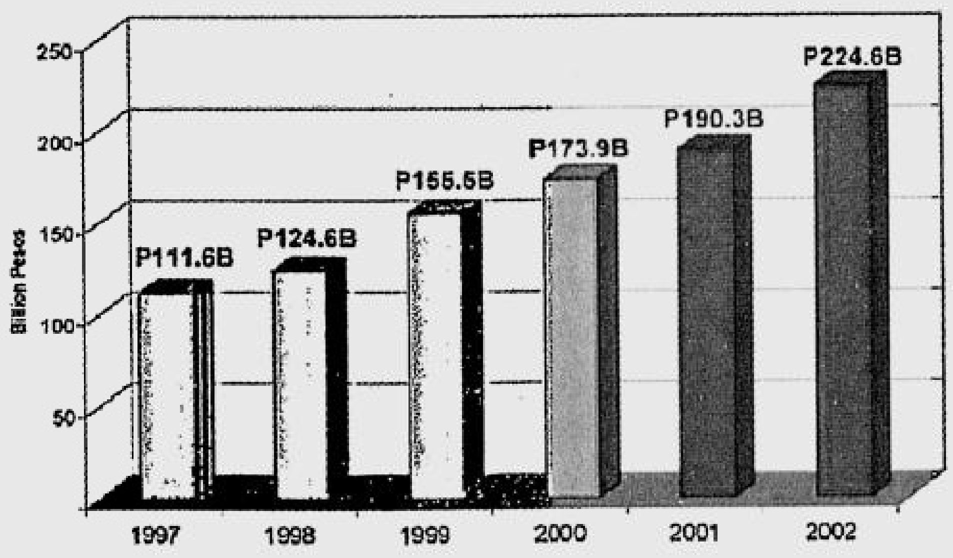
Highest Net Revenues — P32.252 billion



Highest Asset Level — P245.914 billion



Highest Reserves & Surplus — P224.588 billion



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Medal tally	G	S	B
Elementary			
Region 10	5	0	3
Region 12	2	0	0
Region 11	1	8	0
Region 9	1	0	2
Region 5	0	1	1
Caraga	0	0	1
Region 2	0	0	0
Region 3	0	0	0
Region 6	0	0	0
Region 8	0	0	0
CAR	0	0	0
ARMM	0	0	0
Secondary			
Region 10	7	1	3
Region 11	3	2	2
Region 12	1	3	1
Region 5	0	2	1
CAR	0	1	1
Caraga	0	1	1
Region 3	0	1	0
Region 8	0	0	1
Region 9	0	0	1
Region 2	0	0	0
Region 6	0	0	0
ARMM	0	0	0

PALARONG PAMBANSA

Davao, Iligan bets dominant

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—A short, stocky girl from Davao City, who nearly missed this year's event, heaved the shot put to victory and became the first gold medal winner of the 2003 Palarong Pambansa yesterday at the Mindanao Civic Center here.

Cristine Joy Gromio, an 18-year-old freshman at the Holy Cross of Davao, put her shot to a distance of 8.84 meters to secure the gold she thought she'd lost when the Palaro was postponed three times from its original kick-off date last May.

"I'm happy that they decided to consider athletes who have already graduated (from high school)," said Gromio. "That gave us a chance to compete one last time because we have been training hard for the Palaro originally scheduled for summer."

Her victory, however, was quickly overshadowed by Northern Mindanao's splurge in swimming later in the day.

Iligan City's swimming dynamo Haroon Cali became the first gold medal winner in the pool, kicking off a splurge that gave Northern Mindanao (Region 10) 12 gold medals, seven of them coming from the secondary division.

The 17-year-old Cali, a vital cog in Iligan City's domination of swimming in the recent Mindanao Friendship Games, claimed the secondary 400m freestyle title.

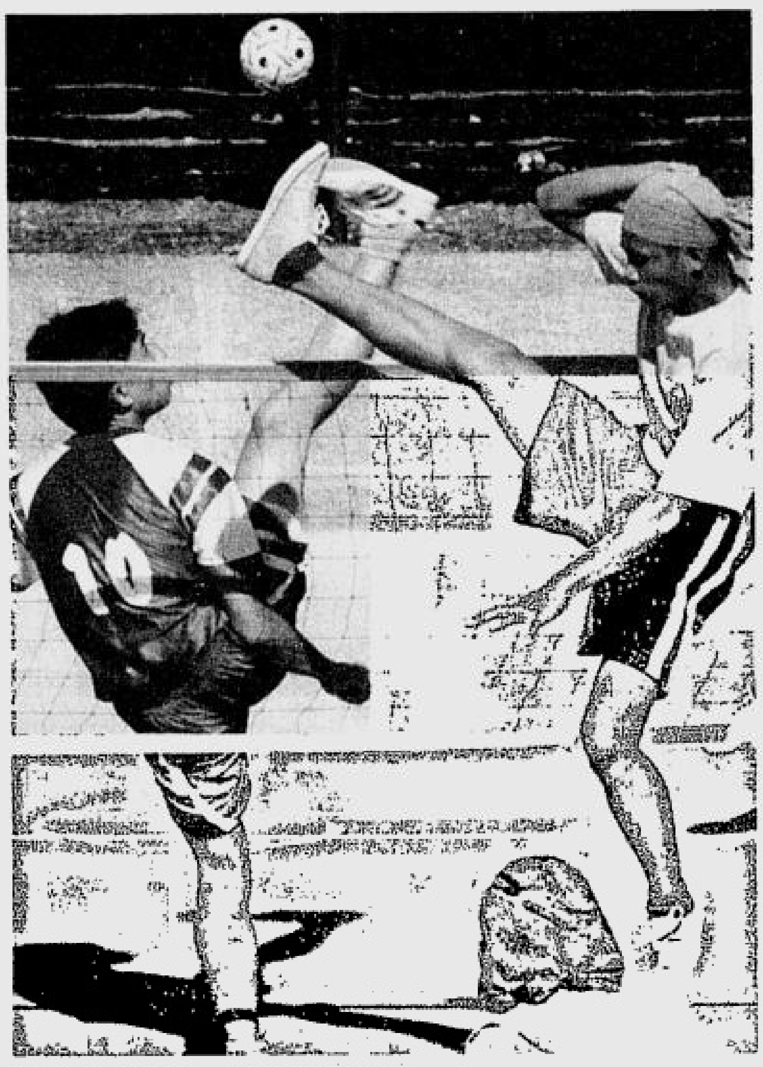
Iligan City stalwarts Shahani Navarro and Monique Bacolod picked it up from there. Navarro took care of the secondary girls' 400m freestyle, while Bacolod, who bagged seven golds in the MFG last week, scored her first victory in the secondary girls' 100m backstroke.

In the elementary division, Sadam Alexander Garrido scored two golds for Northern Mindanao, winning the 200m freestyle and anchoring the region's 400m medley relay team to victory.

Bea Felise Garrido, Gramiella Ambalong, Margarett Chiong and Sarah Sayosay joined hands to also win the elementary girls' 400m medley relay gold for Northern Mindanao.

Central Mindanao also shone in the pool through Alexa Mae Espino and Kurt Jon Sombero, who prevailed in the elementary girls' 200m freestyle and secondary boys' 100m backstroke, respectively.

Region 11 gained two more golds in athletics as Jerome Gonzales triumphed in the elementary boys' long jump and Darell Cabanero won the secondary boys' shot put.



IT'S a tangle of legs in this bit of sepak takraw action between Davao and Northern Mindanao in the Palarong Pambansa in Tubod, Lanao del Norte. EDWIN BACASMAS

FEU Tams lead way to U'Games quarterfinals

FAR EASTERN University, College of Saint Benilde, University of the East and Adamson blasted their respective opponents yesterday to reach the quarterfinals of the Unigames basketball competition.

The UAAP champion Tamaraws overwhelmed University of Iloilo, 95-56, while the CSB Blazers thumped Holy Cross of Davao, 96-83, at the Palaruang La Salle in De La Salle University-Dasmariñas.

The Tams and the Blazers collide for top spot in bracket B today.

The UE Warriors outplayed the Emilio Aguinaldo College-Manila five, 82-66, while the Adamson Falcons downed the Baguio Colleges Foundation dribblers, 76-65, at the Orchard Golf and Country Club gym also in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

DLSU-Manila closed in on another quarterfinal slot along with St. Francis of Assisi College by routing University of the Philippines-Diliman, 72-55.

An exciting twist occurred in bracket D as University of Mindanao surprised host school DLSU-Dasmariñas, 86-73, and San Beda College coasted past Cavite State University, 86-52.

The loss dropped DLSU-D into a tie with UM at 3-1. If UM beats lowly St. Louis University in its next game, DLSU-D should conquer San Beda by nine points to advance.

In a pair of no bearing contests, Colegio de la Purisima Concepcion finished off SLU, 99-53, and Olivarez College remained the only Metro Manila-based team without a win as it lost to West Negros College, 91-96.

Finally, University of the Assumption frustrated University of Saint La Salle, 91-73, and Ateneo de Zamboanga University downed Foundation University, 82-71.

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Pacquiao could win with a fastbreak

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

BECAUSE there's only one way: Upward!

It's not a normal move Manny Pacquiao is doing.

He's gate-crashing the featherweight class when he has not yet outgrown the 122-lb division that he rules.

The reigning IBF super bantamweight boxing king has however made his case clear.

He firmly felt it was time to prove himself to the world.

It was time to go up, up.

Pacquiao made the clarification to this reporter minutes after pandemonium had subsided following the successful third defense of his world crown in California late in July.

Of course, the lure of a rich yours-or-mine fight against the strong, polished Marco Antonio Barrera had made Pacquiao's mouth water.

Why? 'Coz Barrera, although not officially in possession of a world title, is popularly considered the finest featherweight fighter in the world today.

***

"Kailangan talaga, basta pataas," Pacquiao quipped while pointing his sweaty, taped left fist to the roof section of the Los Angeles Olympic Auditorium.

Frankly, I'd wanted to tell him that he did not have to rush.

He could try to first settle down in the featherweight backyard before going for the jackpot.

You know, two or three fights in the 126-lb division, before going up against Barrera, who clearly had carved out a monument for himself as a featherweight.

It was not unlike telling an aspirant lawyer to first study and review extensively before jumping in and taking the bar exams.

Pacquiao swore he honestly felt he was fully equipped for the big test.

***

For the record, Pacquiao's venerable trainer Freddie Roach, who prepared and guided underdog James Toney to a classic, unforgettable knockout win over the lusterless, legless Evander Holyfield, had some misgivings about the Gensan sensation's decision to gate-crash the Barrera party.

Roach explained he would have preferred for Pacquiao to fight at least two featherweight bouts before going for the big one.

But there's no turning back. On Nov. 16, Pacquiao goes for Barrera's absent but popularly acknowledged people's featherweight crown.

You can bet no foreign fight by a Filipino has generated as much alarm and electricity in Philippine boxing circles.

***

The last time the country had stayed awake all night for a boxing bout was when Onyok Velasco fought (and was cheated) for the Olympic gold medal in 1996 in Atlanta.

For Flash Elorde's big fights at the Araneta Coliseum, fans from faraway provinces would pitch camp outside the Big Dome on the eve of the bout. You know, to make sure they would be able to buy tickets for the fight scheduled 24 hours later.

However, this early, it would be hard to measure the throbbing importance and impact of Pacquiao's bout against Barrera on the national psyche.

The least we could say is that everything in this country—from the President, to the NPA to the Abu Sayyaf—feels he has a stake in it.

***

It's not an exaggeration to say that the result of Pacquiao's featherweight quest would have an effect on the 2004 presidential polls.

If Pacquiao succeeds, you could bet he would be besieged by candidates who would beg for his priceless endorsement.

Going back to the Nov. 16 fight, the general feeling is that Pacquiao could win. But this could come only via the knockout.

On the other hand, majority of fight scholars here swear there are two ways Pacquiao could lose: via a decision or a knockout.

Of course, there's no need to emphasize that Pacquiao is sincerely and supremely confident he could handle Barrera.

Feeds from the camp of the magnificent Mexican say Barrera is not taking anything to chance.

***

All told, Pacquiao, the underdog, could readily buck the odds.

But he must press hot and hard to turn the bout into an open contest.

You know, like a free-wheeling shootout in a basketball game.

Yes, Pacquiao could do it via the fastbreak.

He should avoid a sticky halfcourt game as this would give Barrera a chance to turn the bout into a mental match.

Of course, Barrera, just like Pacquiao, may have to also work doubly hard.

Barrera may have to surpass himself.

Why? Distinct details of several boxing classics point to one irrevocable fact: It does not pay for a fighter to be too intellectual, brainy.

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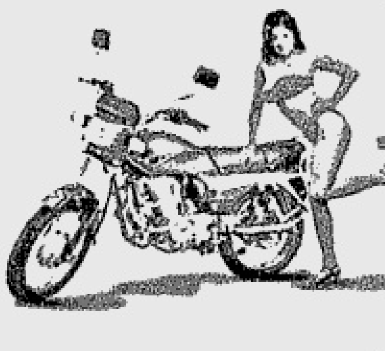
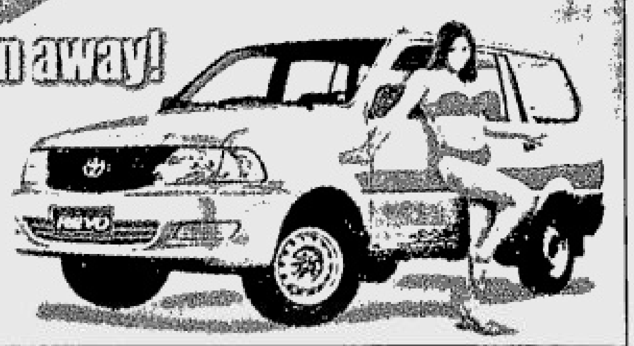


SECOND GRAND DRAW



(4) FIRST PRIZES TOYOTA Altis 1.6M/T

GMA

Wilfredo F. Paduit
825-B EP Village, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C., 47 yrs old

LUZON

Melchor R. Halabaso
Brgy. Paratong, Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur, 23 yrs old

VISAYAS

Carmen Belgica
34 Montinola St., Victorias City, Negros Occ., 82 yrs old

MINDANAO

Silvestre Bitor
P-1 Pianing, Butuan City, 56 yrs old

(8) SECOND PRIZES TOYOTA Revo DLX Diesel M/T

GMA

Alejandro Lopez, Jr.
38-B Pangasinan St., Brgy. Sto. Cristo, Bago Bantay, Q.C. 1105, 52 yrs old

Mercedita L. Balinton
511 Nawasa Pipeline Guitnang Bayan I, San Mateo, Rizal, 25 yrs old

LUZON

Carlito C. Lao
Blk. 65 Lot 1-A, Brgy. San Martin IV Area-C Sapang Palay, S.J.D.M. Bulacan, 43 yrs old

Abraham A. Catahan
111 Estranio St., Bancal, Meycauayan, Bulacan, 28 yrs old

VISAYAS

Cesar Alinabo
Campuyo Manj., Negros Oriental, 42 yrs old

Rhea G. Elegino
199-N Sanciangko St., Cebu City, 29 yrs old

MINDANAO

Charmiene Joy P. Amorganda
165 R.T. Lim St., Pagadian City, 20 yrs old

Larry B. Ambrocio
ASAI Vill., Bula, Gen. Santos City, 52 yrs old

(16) THIRD PRIZES Falcon Motorcycle 150cc

GMA

Ofelia R. Lavarez
1634 Neptuno St., Paco, Manila, 46 yrs old

Rommel T. Amay
1044 Alhambra St., Ermita, Manila 1000, 34 yrs old

Salvador Lambino
112 8th Avenue, West David St., Grace Park, Kaloocan City, 46 yrs old

Aristoteles F. Dula
PS3-08-10- 17th St., Villamor Airbase, Pasay City, 63 yrs old

LUZON

Rey Ringor
280 Lower Cabinet Hill, Baguio City, 49 yrs old

Gerry M. Espinosa
Debesmscat Cabitan, Mandaon, Masbate, 41 yrs old

Daisy B. Agagon
33 Bagong Silang St., Masbate City, 22 yrs old

Rodrigo Agbanlog
Sunlife Grocery, Cauayan City, 57 yrs old

VISAYAS

Liza Grace E. Cordova
Gen. Luna St., Poblacion, Cauayan, Negros Occidental, 19 yrs old

Edwin Tuazon
Paloyapoy St., Lunay 1, Toledo City, Cebu, 33 yrs old

Vilma Mineza
Linaban,Hamtic, Antique, 52 yrs old

Rene C. Lauriano
Ph. II-B Blk 4 Lot 34, Regent Pearl Homes, Dona Carmen I, Alijis Subd., Bacolod City, 32 yrs old

MINDANAO

Ruel Llapitan
Prk. 8 Brgy. Communal, Buhangin Dist., Davao City, 29 yrs old

Fernanda G. Maligmat
Charm M.S.U. Marawi City, Iligan, 49 yrs old

Analiza A. Segovia
New Argao Malita, Davao Del Sur, 32 yrs old

Virginia I. Adanza
53 Magsaysay St., Miputak, Dipolog City, 48 yrs old

(16) FOURTH PRIZES Pioneer Home Theater

GMA

Ederlinda L. Sibal
105 Brgy. San Nicolas, Bamban, Tarlac, 52 yrs old

Richel V. Alegre
647 Sacnaba St., Poblacion, Muntinlupa City, 25 yrs old

Lourdes C. Cabral
Malibu Tuy, Batangas City, 34 yrs old

Raldwin B. Lopez
2577 Opalo St., San Andres, Manila, 21 yrs old

LUZON

Nelson Funes
San Agustin Irosin Sorsogon, 29 yrs old

Narciso Quimba
Brgy. Casilagan Sur, Banayoyo, Ilocos Sur 29 yrs old

Sofia B. De Salva
32 Brgy. Quintong, San Carlos City, Pangasinan, 33 yrs old

Francisco B. Abig
Magalalag, Enrile, Cagayan, 47 yrs old

VISAYAS

Nancy Caballero
Banawa Good Shepherd, Cebu City, 29 yrs old

Dennis R. Chiete
Brgy. Masulog, Canlaon City, Negros Oriental 49 yrs old

Erliza G. Ayuda
Liwayway Mc Arthur, Leyte 6509, 27 yrs old

Rosemae R. Gonzales
Brgy. Buntatala Leganes, Iloilo City, 21 yrs old

MINDANAO

Amado L. Somaylo
Kibaghot, Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental 9019, 51 yrs old

Glenda Espulgar
Sapad, Lanao Del Norte, 55 yrs old

Orlando Hidalgo
Km. 3 Libertad, Butuan City 53 yrs old

Lyn R. Vargas
Baloiusa, Toril, Davao City, 39 yrs old

(32) FIFTH PRIZES Pioneer VCD Component

GMA

Dante E. Sumanting
143 Julian Felipe, Sangandaan, Caloocan City, 40 yrs old

Oliver C. Cera
c/o Fely's Store, Brgy. 1, Aplaya, Sariaya, Quezon 18 yrs old

Jonathan A. Layug
1643 Balic-Balic, Sta. Rita, Olongapo City, 19 yrs old

Teodoro A. Casenas
11 Arbaga St., Balara, Quezon City, 64 yrs old

Nilo L. Torillas
77 Maria Clara St., 44th Ave. East, Caloocan City, 40 yrs old

Nenita B. Quizon
Suha,Bigaan, San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro, 56 yrs old

Ellen S. Gloria
280 Bagong Daan St., Abucay, Bataan 23 yrs old

Rolando D. Tolentino
4 Mabini Homesite, Cabanatuan City 3100, 57 yrs old

LUZON

Wilfred G. Fernandez
Brgy. 6 San Leandro, Sarrat, Ilocos Norte, 43 yrs old

Consolacion S. Bautista
Poblacion Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya, 65 yrs old

Joseph P. Sacolees
Liwan Sur, Enrile, Cagayan, 30 yrs old

Ernesto R. Fontanilla
15 Roman Ayson Road, Baguio City, 43 yrs old

Florita Rivera
Ambalite, Pugo, La Union, 45 yrs old

Ma. Alma Santayana
Centro, Polangui, Albay, 36 yrs old

Lisa S. Nepomuceno
Zone 4-B Dona Clara Vil Con. Peq. 4400, Naga City, 27 yrs old

Recel A. Vinoya
Blk 2 Lot 21 Emerald St., United Homeowners, Tiniguiban, Puerto Princesa, Palawan 5300, [illegible] yrs old

VISAYAS

Reynaldo R. Ortega
216-E A. Lopez St., Bonbonon Labangon, Cebu City 47 yrs old

Rodolfo P. Rubillar
San Vicente Maribojoc, Bohol, 53 yrs old

Josie P. Garbe
Pob. Sur, Sigma, Capiz, 23 yrs old

Vicente R. Cecilio
Loyonsawang, Abuyog, Leyte, 56 yrs old

Carlos J. Valdez
Div. Ibarra Maasin City, Southern Leyte, 26 yrs old

Conchita Escorpiso
Rizal St., Igbaras, Iloilo City, 50 yrs old

Melanie Filomeno
Brgy. Gumbalaran, Sitio Mauthion, Silay City, Negros Occ., 41 yrs old

Cecilia Reyes
Binohon, Bais City, Negros Oriental, 26 yrs old

MINDANAO

George Adonis
1531 Pob. Uno, Bansalan, Davao Del Sur 8005 40 yrs old

Orlando R. Reganion
M. H. del Pilar St., Estaka, Dipolog City, 62 yrs old

Gemma A. Polintan
San Teodoro Bunawan, Agusan del Sur, 34 yrs old

Angeline C. Tubin
Roxas Avenue Extension, Iligan City, 29 yrs old

Berlyn A. Vendiola
Purok 2-A Gusa, Cagayan de Oro City 9000, 24 yrs old

Owen G. Ong Chua
Labuan, Zamboanga City 7000, 31 yrs old

Thelma C. Sugoy
2 Don T. V. Juliano Ave., Cotabato City, 40 yrs old

Alberta E. Herceda
Purok 7, Katangawan, Gen. Santos City, 43 yrs old

(32) SIXTH PRIZES GE Refrigerator 9 cu. ft.

GMA

Remedios A. Dela Rosa
13 E. I Cruz St., Taytay, Rizal, 54 yrs old

Leah P. Lapira
Blk. 4 Lot 19-B Villa Monteverde, Nagbalon, Marilao, Bulacan, 38 yrs old

Nicomedes L. Siervo
330 Armstrong Ave., Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City, 30 yrs old

Lito Edora
Brgy. Inhobol, Masinloc, Zambales, 46 yrs old

Bethlehem M. Lumain
114 M. H. Del Pilar St., Barangay Vil. Hollywood, Lucena City, 24 yrs old

Narciso A. Pestano
43 Hyacinth St., Roxas District, Quezon City, 21 yrs old

Cely B. Magtaas
304 R.R. Station, Batangas City, 55 yrs old

Edmundo M. Deocareza
136 San Francisco St., Angeles City, 39 yrs old

LUZON

Edwin B. Pineda
Mangandingay, Cabarroguis, Quirino, 39 yrs old

Bonifacio C. Espiritu, Jr.
2713 Quinsonano, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur, 33 yrs old

Dodjie M. Bognot
Purok 6 Namnama Brgy. Nagsurot, Burgos, Ilocos Norte, 35 yrs old

Patrick B. Yap
Ilawod, Camalig, Albay, 38 yrs old

Grecita G. Galivo
44 Zamora St., Dagupan City, Pangasinan, 63 yrs old

Villamor P. Dizon
282 Yolo St., Mangaldan, Pangasinan, 38 yrs old

Mary Jane J. Anes
Banza Caves, Ragay, Camarines Sur, 35 yrs old

Noli L. Nava
Bagumbayan St., Masbate City, 48 yrs old

VISAYAS

Chona L. Juarez
Zone 3 1810 Tabunok, Talisay City, 44 yrs old

Renea C. Lacastesantos
Loreto, Cortes, Bohol 6341, 24 yrs old

Nancy E. Tumale
623 National Highway, Bayawan City, Negros Oriental, 44 yrs old

Inocencio P. Rodriguez
Pob. Dumalag, Capiz 45 yrs old

Restituto G. Duran, Jr.
208 Purok 2, Brgy. Maulong, Catbalogan, Samar, 55 yrs old

Rebecca S. Agosila
Brgy. Proteccion Hilongos,Leyte, 30 yrs old

Joe N. Abello
Baglo, Lezo, Aklan, 21 yrs old

Winona G. Dalumpines
Sitio Talutog, Dulao, Bago City, Negros Occ., 39 yrs old

MINDANAO

Rolan Villanueva
Malayang Nayon Subd. Barangay Mabuhay, General Santos City, 24 yrs old

Aldrin Abrera
c/o Cotabato Plastic Trading, S.A. Pendatun Avenue Cotabato City 9600, 29 yrs old

Ruben G. Lozanes
Purok IV Sangali, Zamboanga City 7000, 35 yrs old

Nenita M. Ebale
Manggawang Dal. Pl-A, Mangagoy, Bislig City 8311, 42 yrs old

Charlestine A. de Castro
515 Andaya Subd., Obrero, Butuan City, 51 yrs old

Leonida D. Pabilada
Curvada, Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte, 50 yrs old

Dominica G. Daling
Purok 4 Bagontaas, Valencia City, 33 yrs old

Crispin O. Gamboa
Banadero, Ozamis City, 31 yrs old

(32) SEVENTH PRIZES PIONEER DVD Player

GMA

Mary Joyce J. Carsi Cruz
108 Timog Ave. ,Quezon City, 33 yrs old

Bernardita S. Alpapara
34 Ilang-Ilang St., Olandes, Marikina City, 51 yrs old

Raul Arejola
Bayan Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, 38 yrs old

Virginia G. de Guzman
Brgy. Sabang, Baler, Aurora, 29 yrs old

Rosemarie C. Casisiempre
Pabalan Subd., Abar 1st, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija 3121, 41 yrs old

Pacifico M. Loslos
Brgy. Laon Doongon, Mogpog, Marinduque, 59 yrs old

Loreto Pague
84 Karuhatan Road, Karuhatan, Valenzuela City, 27 yrs old

Nilo Fernandez
Tnala Gumba, Nueva Ecija, 34 yrs old

LUZON

Visitacion Gaspar
Centro Baggao, Cagayan, 65 yrs old

Concepcion B. Dacawe
Pob. East, Lagawe, Ifugao, 37 yrs old

Norma M. Pascual
56-B Bacsil South, Laoag City, 50 yrs old

Vilma M. Alimpia
Barrientos, Luna, La Union 2518, 46 yrs old

Antonio S. Catada
49 G Bacomo St. P.P.C. Palawan 5300, 44 yrs old

Ellen Barbacona
San Lorenzo, Tabaco City, Albay, 36 yrs old

Sancho P. Medina
Magsaysay Ave. Centro Bacacay, Albay, 65 yrs old

Pacita M. Ballebes
Zone 4 Velarde St., Sagrada Pili, Camarines Sur, 44 yrs old

VISAYAS

Socorro N. Navaja
1054 E.V. Rama Ave., Guadalupe, Cebu City 6000, 40 yrs old

Ma. Arlene G. Lapastora
Sun Valley Greenland, V-Rama Ave., Cebu City, 6000, 31 yrs old

Gilbert Emperado
Calag Calag, Ayungon, Negros Oriental, 43 yrs old

Lilia Alconer
Brgy. Dumolog, Roxas City, 68 yrs old

Deodoro A. Edillo
Ilihan, Macrohon, Southern Leyte 6601, 48 yrs old

Manuel Dabuet Jr.
BO- L0 San Roque St., Catbalogan, Samar, 35 yrs old

Annabee Huqueriza
Brgy. Dalagan, Calinog, Iloilo City, 19 yrs old

Rosalino Letran
St. Michael Subd. Phase II Avocado St., Brgy. Alicante E.B. Magalona, Negros Occ., 69 yrs old

MINDANAO

Teofredo L. Pulido
241 Herrera St., cor. P. Zamora ext., Brgy. Biasong, Dipolog City 7100, 44 yrs old

Lucena P. Liscano
Poblacion Don Carlos Sur, Don Carlos Bukidnon, 44 yrs old

Marie Cris Laurete
Purok 10 Zone 8 Fuentes, Iligan City 9200, 34 yrs old

Edwin E. Niog
B11 L28 P-III Emenville Subd., Ambago, Butuan City, 27 yrs old

Roel R. Alta
56 M. Natividad St., Tetuan, Zamboanga City, 37 yrs old

Arman K. Gumama
Pikit, Cotabato City, 45 yrs old

Enrico L. Fuentes
Dizon St., Koronadal City c/o Bombo Radyo, 28 yrs old

Carmelita Estallo
Blk. 50 Brgy. 21-C, Davao City, 44 yrs old

DOH-BFAD no. 0252-2003

Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

(128) EIGHTH PRIZES NOKIA 3315 w/ Globe Phonekit

GMA

Joey D. Gusi
4/F Telof Post Office Bldg., Lawton, Manila. 35 yrs old

Fe M. Grimaldo
Blk. 4 Rosal St. Amparo Capri, Novaliches, Q.C., 58 yrs old

Tito T. Estrada
100 Gen. Malvar St., South Combo, Makati. 30 yrs old

Reniel A. Tapan
8 Pananalig St., Villarica, Mandaluyong City 26 yrs old

Joie V. Presente
Phase 7-A Blk. 18 Lot 12 Pkg. 10, Bagong Silang Caloocan 37 yrs old

Damian Bernardino, Jr.
133 Talacsan San Rafael, Bulacan, 28 yrs old

Leandro A. Linag
824 Michel Ext. Balibago, Angeles City, 49 yrs old

Ferdinand S. Jose
Bunsuran 1st, Pandi, Bulacan, 33 yrs old

Victor R. delos Santos
216 De Ocampo St., Townsite Limay, Bataan. 28 yrs old

Gonzalo Dela Cruz, Jr.
76 Brgy. Mapalad, Tarlac City, 29 yrs old

Ernesto M. Buan
111 Bodbod Porac, Pampanga, 35 yrs old

Alejo M. Pacunayen
Banaoang East Moncada, Tarlac, 45 yrs old

Marcel Yaya
39 Ebus San Vicente, Guagua, Pampanga, 29 yrs old

Josefina M. Ortomio
Diumabo, San Luis, Aurora, 40 yrs old

Ofelia B. Tabing
Brgy. Naglabrahan, Guimba, Nueva Ecija 3115, 50 yrs old

Mario A. Castillo
118 L. Taboon St., Sta. Cruz, Laguna, 49 yrs old

Romeo H. Atienza
453 Purok 6 San Sebastian, Lipa City, 48 yrs old

Benjamin R. Aquino
Jasmin St., Lila Subd., Tayabas, Quezon 4327, 55 yrs old

Arnel E. Mabunga
Bancoro Buenavista, Marinduque, 35 yrs old

Juby D. Gilva
144 A. General Malvar St., San Vicente, Binan, Laguna. 32 yrs old

Bernardo Odasco
54 General Luna St., Tayabas, Quezon, 33 yrs old

Dennis T. Aducon
J. Cabral St., Calatagan, Batangas, 19 yrs old

Avelino Detoyato
48 Escubar Compound, Ilaya St., Niog II, Bacoor, Cavite, 50 yrs old

Sisenando Cueto
Sta. Rita, Cal. City, Oriental Mindoro, 44 yrs old

Ernesto T. Barraca
240 Sitio Sumandal, Brgy. Cabulusan, Magallanes, Cavite, 52 yrs old

Melchor D. Gaytos
Bldg. 4-U Bll Bahay Candaa, Bayani St., Brgy. Dona Imelda, Q.C., 52 yrs old

Jhonny C. Pason
2310 Severino Reyes St., Sta. Cruz, Manila, 29 yrs old

Jaime R. Serna
Blk. 12 Lot 44 EP Housing, P. 1, Western Bicutan, Taguig, 54 yrs old

Conrad Mangle
NSO EDSA corner Times St., West Triangle Vibal Bldg., Q.C., 03 yrs old

David Sy
201 N.S. Amoranto St., Talayan Village, Q.C., 55 yrs old

Lydia D. Manalastas
6054 San Rafael St., Makati City, 58 yrs old

Pedro T. Bombita
243 3rd St., 10th Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan City, 65 yrs old

LUZON

Remy D. Genova
Rizal St., Brgy. 1 Romblon, Romblon, 40 yrs old

Gerald R. Torres
71 Tara St., Masbate City, 20 yrs old

Isabel A. Bael
31 Jacob Putol, Bagumbayan Sur, Naga City 43 yrs old

Jeaneth A. Dichoson
Ilangan, Bula, Camarines Sur, 26 yrs old

Analou G. Jamapao
42 Manga St. Brgy. Matahimik Zone 1, [illegible] Puerto Princesa Palawan 5300, 32 yrs old

Nelia B. Base
Purok 7 Baklayon, Bacacay, Albay, 28 yrs old

Julian R. Sacayan, Jr.
M/V Princess of Mayon, Matnog, Sorsogon, 50 yrs old

Luz O. Palevino
San Rafael, Guinobatan, Albay, 33 yrs old

Susan B. Reyes
Kinahulugan, Sagonoy, Camarines Sur 4425, 20 yrs old

Roger A. Banga
Busay, Daraga, Albay, 30 yrs old

Felisa C. Osea
Tuliw, Malinao, Albay, 40 yrs old

Isidro V. Melba
E. Rafael St., Rawis Virac, Catanduanes, 39 yrs old

Ramon P. Yonzon
Lot 1 & 2 Blk. 21 O.L.V. Tahao Rd., Legazpi City, 53 yrs old

Pilar M. Bartolay
Sibago, Donsol, Sorsogon, 62 yrs old

Joel F. Faustino
Esperanza East, Aurora 3316, 33 yrs old

Fely M. Abalus
Divisoria, Santiago City, 49 yrs old

Leah Gaspar
Namillangan, Alfonso Lista, Ifugao, 33 yrs old

Marivic F. Estrella
26 Plandel St., Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, 41 yrs old

Rosemarie B. Repato
Malapat Cordon, Isabela, 25 yrs old

Evelyn L. Cayaba
Ragan Norte Delfin Albano, Isabela 3326, 39 yrs old

Erlinda V. Vicente
Brgy. 6 Sarrat, Ilocos Norte 2914, 42 yrs old

Imelda J. Casela
Macabiag, Sinait, Ilocos Sur, 35 yrs old

Lilibeth R. Rebuldela
Pangada, Sta. Catalina, Ilocos Sur, 42 yrs old

Geronima Gorospe
Salomague Port, Cabugao, Ilocos Sur, 38 yrs old

Gerald L. Barola
San Antonio, Donsol, Sorsogon, 24 yrs old

Oliver M. Quidangen
Poblacion Luba, Abra, 44 yrs old

Concesa A. Callejo
Dili, Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur, 42 yrs old

Alma R. Bustillo
145 Tebeng, Dagupan City, Pangasinan, 19 yrs old

Vilma C. Quinto
25 Libas, San Carlos City, Pangasinan 2420, 33 yrs old

Virgilio R. Ortega, Jr.
202 Nancayasan, Urdaneta City, Pangasinan 2428, 26 yrs old

Juliet B. Agustin
Purok 6 Bulanao, Tabuk, Kalinga, 45 yrs old

Mario V. Hufalar, Sr.
Bidang Centro, San Fernando City, La Union 2500 49 yrs old

VISAYAS

Alma P. Subrian
Pancil, Sibulan, Negros Oriental 6201, 25 yrs old

Allandale N. Calaramo
Poblacion, Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental 6220, 29 yrs old

Artemio A. Briones
Arbies Food Haus, Taft Street, Dumaguete City 57 yrs old

Josue Rey Padura
Bantayan, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental, 43 yrs old

Jose Dominador Catacutan
Dungo-an Lagpoud Manjuyod, Negros Oriental, 44 yrs old

Fortunata P. Guarin
Ramona Village, Dumlog, Talisay City, Cebu, 46 yrs old

Evangeline D. Sobrio
1701 Ponce Capitol Hills, Cebu City, 38 yrs old

Benedicto C. Gemal
M.H. del Pilar St., Guizo, Mandaue City, Cebu, 53 yrs old

Violeta I. Ang
70 Brgy. Tugas Madridejos, Bantayan Island, Cebu, 47 yrs old

Monato G. Camasura
Pob. Argao, Cebu City, 42 yrs old

Melchora B. Lirasan
6th Street Sitio Plasnapas, Cebu City, 44 yrs old

Joel Bangalisan
Lungsodaan Candijay, Bohol 6312, 18 yrs old

Redante P. Fernandez
Sibugdor Sierra Bullones, Bohol 6320, 39 yrs old

Corazon Maligaya
Madulano Pres. Roxas, Capiz 5803, 42 yrs old

Reynaldo C. Equinan
2 Public Mkt., Taft St., Dumalag, Capiz 5813 20 yrs old

Lilibeth G. Benavidez
Brgy. Picas, Tanauan, Leyte, 43 yrs old

Alberto L. Harido
Brgy. Balire, Tunga, Leyte 55 yrs old

Rommela B. Dulay
Brgy. Talisay, Lacang, Northern Samar 6411, 33 yrs old

Gerado Dumas
Market Site, Catbalogan, Samar, 31 yrs old

Edwin A. Caras
159 Brgy. Don Esteban Lapuz, Iloilo City, 29 yrs old

Grace C. Palma
Dawis New Lucena Iloilo City 5005, 26 yrs old

Myrna D. Catalan
147 Brgy. Progreso Lapaz, Iloilo City, 46 yrs old

Rosalie Perucho
Brgy. Pigo, Pototan, Iloilo City 5008, 26 yrs old

Cristina T. Hedriana
18-C Delgado St., Iloilo City, 36 yrs old

Nelly Cordova
Libertad Public Market, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, 42 yrs old

Mary Jean F. Pelingon
Purok Sawmill II Brgy. Bata, Bacolod City, Neg. Occ., 38 yrs old

Victoria H. Pescador
12 Fermont Village, Victorias City, Negros Occidental, 34 yrs old

Antonio Lagang
Purok Dol, Pob. 2 Sagay City, Neg. Occ. 38 yrs old

Felix A. Guinabo
SP Village, Pahanocoy, Bacolod City, 38 yrs old

Mae D. Barco
Rizal St., Cadiz City, Neg. Occ., 34 yrs old

Margie G. Abello
200 Tabuc Suba, Jaro, Iloilo City 39 yrs old

Dolores L. Jemina
Cabanbanan, Himamaylan City Negros Occidental 37 yrs old

MINDANAO

Delma B. Cinco
Lugdungan Ilaya, Dapitan City, 50 yrs old

Amelyn R. Tagatae
Pob. Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur 7013, 24 yrs old

Jenely A. Sedrome
Dohinob, Roxas, Zamboanga del Norte, 21 yrs old

Elvis P. Balvestamin
Mindug, Maningcol, Ozamis City, 39 yrs old

Julius P. Damale
Pob. Kabasalan, Zamboanga Sibugay, 29 yrs old

Bertoldo T. Ranan
Purok 6 Pob. Damulog, Damulog, Bukidnon 48 yrs old

Efren O. Agbannaoag
9 Burgos, Montalvan St., Cagayan de Oro City, 28 yrs old

Daisy Chancabunoc
408 Zone II Agusan, Cagayan de Oro City 46 yrs old

Marivic J. Chavo
151 Sta. Cruz St., Pob. Alubijid Misamis Oriental, 41 yrs old

Virgie D. Bangcong
Purok 4-A Gusa, Cagayan de Oro City, 36 yrs old

Irmina A. Yano
Purok 1-A Hinaplanon, Iligan City, 44 yrs old

Annabeth Justo
Tapon, Carmen, Agusan del Norte, 27 yrs old

Anita Balbarino
Purok 5 Brgy. 23 Holy Redeemer, Butuan City 40 yrs old

Fernando G. Cabusalan
P. 4 Lafuriuna Doongan, Butuan City, 34 yrs old

Crisanto Riego
Villakananga, Butuan City, 30 yrs old

Reynaldo R. Sambaran
Brgy. 18-A Purok 5, Gingoog City, 40 yrs old

Romeo S. Silaya
Purok 3 Cumawas, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur 34 yrs old

Arsenio S. Cuering
Fermoll Ice Plant, Km. 6, Mampang, Zamboanga City 43 yrs old

Shirley P. Balunos
Purok IV Flores Comp., Labuan, Zamboanga City 58 yrs old

Morena Limba
Ugalingan Carmen, North Cotabato, 37 yrs old

H. Latip Pacal
16-A Pugay Pugay, Cotabato City, 65 yrs old

Ludenia B. Juanday
Purok Iron, Zenaida Subd., N.O. Village, Cotabato, 43 yrs old

Edgar V. Cadiang
Isulan Public Market, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, 40 yrs old

Carolyn Bologa
7 Quirino Ave. cor. Kasoy St., Gen. Santos City, 33 yrs old

Habirin S. Lambac
Purok 5 Baluntay Alabel, Sarangani Province 9501, 35 yrs old

Albert Bacongga
Sta. Cruz Public Market Cannery, Polomolok, South Cotabato 35 yrs old

Zosimo Cloa
Habitat Phase B Blk. 11 Lot 15, Gen. Santos City 43 yrs old

Michael A. Talungon
San Lorenzo Village, Bago Gallera, Talomo Davao 38 yrs old

Guillermo B. Pagod
Capitol Maharlika, Digos City, 55 yrs old

Regie Manseras, Sr.
Purok 4 North Gate, Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte 28 yrs old

Policarpio R. Quinequez, Jr.
Km. 11 Bay View, Sasa, Davao City, 41 yrs old

Ireneo Tordil, Sr.
Calapayan, Lupon, Davao Oriental 8207, 67 yrs old

(256) NINTH PRIZES GE Microwave Oven 6 cu. ft.

GMA

Lemuel O. Carino
4856 Int. 16 Old Sta Mesa, Metro Manila, 23 yrs old

Angel F. Amador
11-U E. Santos St. Townhouse, Concepcion, Marikina City. 43 yrs old

Arnulfo A. Esperanza
8 Cherry St., SSS Village, Marikina City, 67 yrs old

Jose R. Cabacungan
L31 B8 Litex Village, Tetoran St., San Jose, Montalban, Rizal 54 yrs old

Pablito M. Saflor
B1 L20 Sprally Circle, Better Living, Paranaque City 1700 48 yrs old

Larry B. Mendoza
288 Samson Rd., Caloocan City, 39 yrs old

Dante Agcaoili
3 Camatu St., Olandes, Marikina City, 25 yrs old

Julieto Buyan
c/o Jonel's Lechon Manok, Quirino Hi-way, Lagro, Q.C. 21 yrs old

Erlinda de Leon
404 Gloria St., Isla San Juan, Pajo, Caloocan City, 53 yrs old

Roselle M. Sorreda
990 Don Quijote St., Sampaloc, Manila, 22 yrs old

Serafin Margoli
70 Paez St., Concepcion, Malabon City 67 yrs old

Ma. Theresa A. Ibarra
1910 P. Margal St., Sampaloc, Manila 23 yrs old

Jovito H. Martinez
B61 L44 Blueberry St., Rizal, Makati City, 45 yrs old

Benjamin M. Ellorando
1586 Ampalaya St., Napico Manggahan, Pasig City 57 yrs old

Solomon G. Cuison
163-G 21 St., East Rembo, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City, 57 yrs old

Lim De Chu
1128 Chino Roces, Makati City, 45 yrs old

Barbara S. Perez
Ph 3 Package 3 Lot 16 Block 92 Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, 38 yrs old

Victor Tan
10 T. Alonzo St., Tierra Verde Homes, Tandang Sora, Q.C. 44 yrs old

Daniel E. Perez
39 Macabulo St. Maruay B., Caloocan City, 29 yrs old

Aljohn Y. Ynacis
16 Yakal St., Project 3, Q.C., 48 yrs old

Eduardo A. Gime
280 G. Del Pilar St., South Cembo, Makati City 60 yrs old

Noel Valencia
58 Salamat St., Ampid, San Mateo, Rizal, 27 yrs old

Rovelyn M. Antone
3 Sampaguita St., Olandes I-V-C, Marikina City 29 yrs old

Alberto T. Santos
85-K 6th St., Kamuning, Q.C., 53 yrs old

Lorenzo L. Sarte
Malinao Ilaya, Atimonan, Quezon, 68 yrs old

Eleuterio F. Plata
Mangilag Sur Candelaria, Quezon, 48 yrs old

Oliver L. Lantin
120 Santiago, Malvar, Batangas, 37 yrs old

Ireneo C. Leones
67 R.R. Station, Brgy. 24, Batangas City, 37 yrs old

Augusto T. Makanas
Brgy. Manggahan, San Luis, Batangas, 21 yrs old

Shirley C. Rivano
Brgy. Pagkakaisa, San Narciso, Quezon 30 yrs old

Lilia B. Oracion
Stall M-3 Bebot Pasalubong, Lucena Grand Central Terminal, Lucena City 4301 45 yrs old

Amelita O. Baquillos
7 Rodriguez St., Sariaya, Quezon, 47 yrs old

Cristeta H. Martinez
Pob. 4, Calatagan, Batangas, 44 yrs old

Horacio S. Ricana
Gasan, Marinduque, 62 yrs old

Keinsky A. Marasigan
43 Mabini St., Pob. 38, Infanta, Quezon, 21 yrs old

Zalde Anunciado
Brgy. Malamig, Binan, Laguna, 27 yrs old

Filomena J. Cables
14 P. Burgos St., Gumaca, Quezon, 38 yrs old

Ponciano L. Patulot
Brgy. Libis, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, 63 yrs old

Armando B. Alisasa
Blk. 53 Lot 1-2 Zone 5 AFP Housing, Bulihan, Silang, Cavite City, 38 yrs old

Arnel Y. Tabon
Lost Eden Spring Resort, Tambong, Maulit Indang, Cavite 27 yrs old

Bernardo Dilao
L42 B3 Balete Relocation Site, Batangas City 72 yrs old

Estelito S.Odtuhan, Sr.
B24 L1 Mabuhay Homes 2000 Paliparan 2, Dasma Cavite 70 yrs old

Daniel T. Garcia
174 Patutong Malaki South, Tagaytay City, 54 yrs old

Federico H. Panganiban
65 Gen. Trias St., Mendez, Cavite, 45 yrs old

Angelica Almanzor
38-29 Dona Ambrocia Ave., Don Bonifacio Subd., Angeles City 2007, 36 yrs old

Armando L. Panesa
B13 L28 Rose St., Chinette Homes, Sang. Mantao Bulacan, 44 yrs old

Alex Andan
366 Del Pilar St., San Fernando, Pampanga 32 yrs old

Joselito G. Espina
Sapang Palay, San Jose Bulacan, 36 yrs old

Marciano P. Melchor, Jr.
25 Cabaya St. Bo. Barretto, Olongapo City, 23 yrs old

Romeo Siton
2473 Nickel St., San Andres Bukid, Manila 50 yrs old

Roberto T. Barnuevo
Roquiza Dev't Corp. Bagong Silang, Balanga City, 49 yrs old

Edwin C. Miranda
287 Tabing Ilog 2, San Nicolas, Bulacan 31 yrs old

Cleofas V. Dayag
Pob. West Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac, 57 yrs old

Ysmael Daligcon
43 Paroba St. Mabatang, Abucay, Bataan 40 yrs old

Dante C. Sevilla
Puerto Rivas Itaas, Balanga, Bataan, 33 yrs old

Leticia C. Sison
San Agustin, Iba, Zambales, 54 yrs old

Leizel R. Antolin
Brgy. Malnong Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, 29 yrs old

Romulo P. Canuto
7-21 Dao St., L & S Subd., Angeles City, 57 yrs old

Marcelo N. Bautista
Brgy. Palusapis Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija, 41 yrs old

Ricardo G. Diaz, Jr.
Sta. Cruz Guimba, Nueva Ecija, 31 yrs old

Norman Joey T. Habitan
B18 L2 Buensuceso, Arayat, Pampanga, 31 yrs old

Corazon Santos
Brgy. Siminublan, San Narciso, Zambales 42 yrs old

Elizabeth M. Tampos
Centro Balugo, Masinloc, Zambales, 50 yrs old

Arnulfo Tejader
North Pob., Masinloc, Zambales, 38 yrs old

LUZON

Maryvin P. Galapon
B11 2-5 Altavista Home Patul, Santiago City, 29 yrs old

Jesus P. Plaza
10 Bucag St. Dist. 1 Cauayan City, Isabela 58 yrs old

Mildred D. Colorado
Villa Concepcion, Cauayan City, Isabela, 22 yrs old

Wilson P. Silapan
Lanang, Roxas, Isabela, 33 yrs old

Fely M. Tagayun
Andan, San Pablo, Isabela, 29 yrs old

Joven Y. Garcia
Baua, Gonzaga, Cagayan, 46 yrs old

Eva Gumabay
Atulayan Norte, Tuguegarao City, 34 yrs old

Rizalina P. Ronquillo
Logac Lallo, Cagayan, 46 yrs old

Jose R. Suyo
44 Doneza St., Maura, Aparri, Cagayan Valley 3515 40 yrs old

Emiliano D. Fontanilla
Villaros Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya 3711, 42 yrs old

Rosalina G. Valdez
Bagani Luoga, Candon City, Ilocos Sur, 48 yrs old

George S. Fernandez
Brgy. Parpana Narvacan, Ilocos Sur 2704, 44 yrs old

Gloria Guiwan
Pob. Tayum Abra, 63 yrs old

Ernesto Calaoagan
Brgy. Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte, 37 yrs old

Neil B. Gaces
Brgy. Ulol Bangui Ilocos Norte 2920, 21 yrs old

Elmer Pacris
Brgy. Camindoroan, San Juan, Ilocos Sur 38 yrs old

Mario V. Gonzales
Darapidap, Candon City, Ilocos Sur, 32 yrs old

Anita U. Ramelb
Brgy. 15, San Roque, Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, 53 yrs old

Angeles I. Agpaoa
134 Sta. Cruz, Sinait Ilocos Sur, 28 yrs old

Tomas S. Ocampo
Brgy. Pasaleng, Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte 36 yrs old

Josefina C. Ferrer
5 Camaley, Binmaley, Pangasinan, 75 yrs old

Virgie M. Estoque
14 Macalva Norte, Agoo La Union 2504 33 yrs old

Alfredo B. Concepcion
Pitaoan, Consoy Santol, La Union, 62 yrs old

Rolyn A. Penuliar
2 Amanoaoac Mapandan, Pangasinan 2429 19 yrs old

Freddie C. Gorospe
141 Brgy. Malabago Mangaldan, Pangasinan 2432, 33 yrs old

Benedicta Fontanilla
Brgy. San Antonino, Agoo, La Union, 64 yrs old

Elmer G. Duque
Central East 1 Bangar, La Union 47 yrs old

Magdalena Balleras
350 Baltazar St. Blk 3 Sagud Bahley, San Fabian, Pangasinan 50 yrs old

Regina Pulmano
64 Baraoas Sur, Naguilian, La Union, 34 yrs old

Placida Dagan
Pico, Tuplac, Kiangan, Ifugao Prov. 3604, 47 yrs old

Jerry L. Garriga
Tuba Sapid, Mankayan, Benguet 2608, 30 yrs old

Onassis T. Legaspi
14 Castillo St., Pozorrubio, Pangasinan 26 yrs old

Alma Poche
Nag-aso, K. Manito, Albay, 26 yrs old

Lorena B. Que
Demetrio St., Tabaco, Albay, 38 yrs old

Beatriz G. Mazaraen
Matnog, Sorsogon City, 61 yrs old

Joanabel B. Banzuela
San Pedro St., Sto. Domingo, Albay, 31 yrs old

Zenaida A. Camania
Burabod, Malinao, Albay Purok 2, 38 yrs old

Roslyn T. Blacer
Brgy. 1 Em's Barrio, Legaspi City, 31 yrs old

Josephine B. Bas
San Jose, Malilipot, Albay, 39 yrs old

Jeane R. Enaje
Iraya Sur, Oas, Albay, 21 yrs old

Mario B. Canaleta
Purok 4 Baybay, Malinao Albay, 50 yrs old

Ma. Sheila B. Garalde
15 Balagtas St., Legaspi City 4500, 39 yrs old

Joel C. Rocha
Bantayan Tabaco City 45 yrs old

Teodoro R. Dineros
Iraya Sur, Oas, Albay, 50 yrs old

Julita B. Perez
La Purisima, Nabua, Camarines Sur, 37 yrs old

Rodolfo Sanico, Sr.
Zone 4, San Roque, Camaligan, Camarines Sur, 48 yrs old

Charlie D. Amador
90 Mabolo Drive, Naga City 4400, 20 yrs old

Leandro D. Moreno
Nabuntogan Banga Caves Ragay, Camarines Sur 4410 44 yrs old

Randy B. Importa
Sibujo, Libmanan Camarines Sur, 25 yrs old

Jose S. Ilao
Sta. Rosa del Sur, Pasacao Camarines Sur 41 yrs old

Eduardo A. Babina
60 Anak Dagat St. Brgy. Pob. Norte, Paracale Camarines Norte 41 yrs old

Comado Omega
Pob. Iraya, Ragay, Camarines Sur 4410, 56 yrs old

Ruben M. Arcilla
33 Lukbuan Norte, Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte 43 yrs old

Salvacion B. Bare
Del Rosario Mayor, Camarines Sur, 42 yrs old

Eulogia S. Dezemo
San Roque, Nabua, Camarines Sur, 65 yrs old

Imelda R. Brinas
Brinas Resi. San Roque Buao, Camarines Sur 51 yrs old

Carlos V. Jamilo
Brgy. Seaside, Puerto Princesa City Palawan 40 yrs old

Cerilina D. Autor
Rizal St. Pob. Taytay, Rizal, Pala 1, 54 yrs old

Venjie G. Juaton
Calasagnon, Brooke's Point, Palawan 21 yrs old

Edison P. Luison
c/o Tiring Verallo Divisoria Cawayan, Masbate City, 32 yrs old

Crestina E. Verdida
Brgy. Kinamaligan, Masbate City, 25 yrs old

Nerissa Brioso
Bayanihan San Fernando, Masbate, 18 yrs old

Julie M. Lipata
Batiano, Odiongan, Romblon, 49 yrs old

Vivina Dela Cruz
Pob. Cajidiocan, Romblon, 38 yrs old

VISAYAS

Bernardo C. Selim
88 C. Padilla St. corner Tomas Abella St. Cebu, 54 yrs old

Estrella G. Velez
14 Gomez St., Silay City, Negros Occidental, 51 yrs old

Maeann A. Cepeda
Purok Langis, Brgy. Banago Bacolod City 27 yrs old

Salvasion Hiponia
Brgy. Balaring, Silay City, Negros Occidental 52 yrs old

Ritchel Albino
Sto. Carolina Zone 5 Brgy. II, La Carlota City 41 yrs old

Vilma T. Siosan
Brgy. Sagasa Bago City, Negros Occidental 48 yrs old

Jephie A. Marcellones
157 J-S Ciwac Bulacao, Cebu City, 20 yrs old

Rodolfo S. Tegio
Lopez Comp., Merga St., San Roque, Cebu City 50 yrs old

Alicia Parawan
Paradise Island Looc, Mandaue City, Cebu 51 yrs old

Deborah Montero
Veloso St., Brgy. 6 Tuburan, Cebu City 19 yrs old

Ramilita G. Ayuda
Moda, Argao, Cebu, 24 yrs old

Vivian T. Caras
159 Brgy. Don Esteban Lapuz, Iloilo City 28 yrs old

Sharewin Gullermo
John B. Lacson Colleges Found., Arevalo Iloilo 20 yrs old

Ritzy A. Minor
Brgy. Tacdangan Cabatuan, Iloilo City, 34 yrs old

Joseph Dean L. Nicolo
134-C Javellana Ext. Jaro Iloilo City, 37 yrs old

Jesusa V. Ygonia
Bots of Paradise, Kodia, Madridejos Cebu City 33 yrs old

Cipriano Cabanog
Basak, Pagsabungan, Mandaue City, 46 yrs old

Noel C. Balila
Guimbal, Compostela, Cebu City, 40 yrs old

Rosie Frias
Sto. Nino Storage Comp., Purok Bulgan, Brgy. 1 Bacolod City 54 yrs old

Norman G. Nemenzo
21 Galaxy St., Henrietta Vill. Singcang, Bacolod City 39 yrs old

Charito D. Dela Pena
Vagation St., San Enrique Negros Occidental 42 yrs old

Gloria O. Oblema
1444 Lanzones [illegible] Capitol Hts. Villamonte Bacolod City 49 yrs old

Cecilia Pagayon
Antonio Luna St., Silay City, Negros Occidental 50 yrs old

Josena Detoyato
1st Rd. Alunan Baybay Bacolod City 47 yrs old

Mary Grace Villaceran
Kabar Bantayan, Cebu City, 20 yrs old

Zenaida V. Galang
Blk. 2, Malipayon Vil., Roxas City, Capiz 53 yrs old

Teodora B. Turado
Coastal Rd. Dumlog Talisay City, Cebu City 50 yrs old

Dominic D. Pancito
Basak Taloto Tagbilaran City Bohol, 33 yrs old

Lani B. Gallo
Evangelista St., Pavia, Iloilo City, 35 yrs old

Marietta J. Flores
San Juan Zone 3, Iloilo City, 58 yrs old

Samuel V. Laporga
Brgy. San Juan, Molo, Iloilo City, 41 yrs old

Faith J. Bachoco
Brgy. Buyo, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo City, 25 yrs old

Teresita Do-Oma
North Baluarte, Molo, Iloilo City, 64 yrs old

Candelaria Lagarto
Batuan Duenas, Iloilo City, 46 yrs old

Lamberto D. Bitong
Brgy. Talangon Bais City, Negros Oriental 56 yrs old

Francisco G. Joseph
Purok 8, Bantayan, Dumaguete City, 52 yrs old

Renato B. Molo
Rizal Ext., North Pob., Larena, Siquijor 6226 34 yrs old

Librado Catacutan
Sitio San Jose Bais City, Negros Oriental 6206 39 yrs old

Jima S. Banabana
West Bantayan Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental 31 yrs old

Tito S. Villalon
Pob. Basay, Negros Oriental 47 yrs old

Elena L. Amoyan
Candaya, San Juan Sta. Rita, Western Samar 23 yrs old

Joy T. Lirios
98-A Esperas Ave., Brgy. 51 Tacloban City, Leyte, 42 yrs old

Ma. Beatriz G. Militante
229 P. Burgos St., Tacloban City Leyte, 39 yrs old

Imelda L. Catilogo
B20 L26 Molave Vill., Sangkahan, Tacloban City 47 yrs old

Melita L. Baron
Bo. Bacuod Caneto St., Hinundayan Southern Leyte 6609 17 yrs old

Lydia M. Janoso
Purok Candelaria Ichon, Macrohon Southern Leyte, 30 yrs old

Cipriana Cimorot
278 Imperio A., Tanauan Leyte, 47 yrs old

Avelina Suico
Baybay Maasin City, Southern Leyte 6600 70 yrs old

Denise P. Magbutay
218 Ramon Mendiola St. Gandara Western Samar 34 yrs old

Godofreda Lebios
Songculan Dauis Bohol 54 yrs old

Jose Q. Fuentes
Zone II Don Esteban Lapuz, Lapaz, Iloilo City 43 yrs old

Cristina E. Dacles
Tabucan, Mandurriao, Iloilo City, 39 yrs old

Rey S. Malicia
190 Purok 2 Railway, Pavia, Iloilo City, 43 yrs old

Imelde N. Cayas
Brgy. Palale II MacArthur, Leyte 6509, 35 yrs old

Dionisio R. Hinola, Jr.
Poblacion Lezo, Aklan 73 yrs old

Vivian Lizardo
Andrada Subd. Brgy. Banica Roxas City 44 yrs old

Fresil M. Banico
S 203 Pres. Roxas Capiz 28 yrs old

Elena D. Tuba
Tigbao, Loboc, Bohol 23 yrs old

Eunice L. Avadilla
North Pob., Antequera, Bohol 6335, 28 yrs old

Ruhil Santiago
Libas Merida Leyte 6540 18 yrs old

Lito C. Millan
Mayuga Libagon, Southern Leyte 34 yrs old

Bermudo D. Sebugon, Jr.
Brgy. Sta. Fe, Sasaldo, Abuyog, Leyte 6510 30 yrs old

Rudy L. Morial
Buenavista, Padre Burgos Southern Leyte 6602 45 yrs old

Sofronio A. Delena
Old Planta Rizal Ave., Catbalogan, Samar 52 yrs old

MINDANAO

Marites Najos
B31 L2 Villa Angela Subd., Balulang, Cagayan de Oro 9000 45 yrs old

Restituto Uy
Mary Grace Store, Kibawe Bukidnon, 20 yrs old

Perlita Pangca
Capt. Gayle A Pinikitan, Cagayan de Oro City 33 yrs old

Zenaida S. Peralta
B21 L10 PH-1 NHA Kauswagan, Cagayan de Oro City 52 yrs old

Expedita L. Realeza
56 Echavez St., Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte 38 yrs old

Rose E. Codino
Pob. Damulog Bukidnon 8721, 22 yrs old

Albino S. Danduan
454 Roxas St. Zone 2 Agusan, Cagayan de Oro City 52 yrs old

Codelia Compendio
Brgy. 3 Buenavista, Agusan del Norte, 52 yrs old

Luminoso B. Rosal, Sr.
214 NHA Sto. Nino, Lapasan Cagayan de Oro City 56 yrs old

Fleurdeliez F. Amora
Capistrano Gomez St., Cagayan de Oro City 23 yrs old

Warren I. Cabaneros
163 Purok 3-A Gusa, Cagayan de Oro 26 yrs old

Apolinario A. Tadena
Basag Butuan City, Agusan Del Norte, 34 yrs old

Alfredo G. Javellar
Purok 5-A Bonbon, Butuan City, 51 yrs old

Noel G. Pahayahay
P-8 Brgy. Doongan, Butuan City, 31 yrs old

Eduardo R. Aninon
P-5 Tabon Bislig City 49 yrs old

Edivo A. Martinez
B13 L1 Cantampa Homes, Surigao City 43 yrs old

Perlita U. Licong
Bayugan 3, Rosario, Agusan Del Sur, 50 yrs old

Felipe M. Orgil
Bad-As, Placer Surigao Norte 45 yrs old

Arlyn A. Jumawan
Purok 4 Doongan, Butuan City, 27 yrs old

Domingo Bianson
Prk 1-A Tagbo, Dalipuga, Iligan City, 49 yrs old

Wilfredo Quiban
P-4 Brgy. Santiago, Iligan City 22 yrs old

Maricel A. Momo
Purok 2 Tacub Kauswagan, Lanao Del Norte 19 yrs old

Noel M. Gacuma
Curvada Maria Cristina, Iligan City, 46 yrs old

Nestor G. Manga
Purok 1b, Tominobo, Iligan City, 48 yrs old

Herlyn Hortelano
Pob. Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur, 18 yrs old

Evelyn M. Sususco
Purok 2 D.C.M. Mahayag, Zamboanga del Sur 7026 22 yrs old

Rowen Tagbo
Purok Makughon, Monte Alegre, Aurora, Zamboanga Del Sur 26 yrs old

Jessie P. Panangit
Sto. Tomas Mutia, Zamboanga del Norte, 47 yrs old

Alex Leynes
Manabay, Ozamis City, Misamis Occidental 66 yrs old

Evangeline T. Gaviola
Purok Pagatpat 1 Sta. Lucia Dist., Pagadian City. 37 yrs old

Maxima Delos Santos
Catadman Mangga Purok 4, Ozamis City 63 yrs old

Marivic G. Tumampo
P-1 Bagakay, Ozamis City, 34 yrs old

Daniela V. Arado
Centro Napu Tudela, Misamis Occidental, 50 yrs old

Orquenia J. Capute
Bana Comp., Bonbon, Cag. de Oro, Misamis Oriental 42 yrs old

Inocencio Pogosa, Jr.
934-A Phil. Match, Golden Ribbon Butuan City 45 yrs old

Rodrigo D. Martinez
457 T. Calo Ext., Butuan City, Agusan Del Norte 48 yrs old

Romeo H. Gonzalez
Mangelen, Kamanga, Maasim, Sarangani Province, 48 yrs old

Fidencio E. Kasayan
229 Apitong St., Balite, Lagao Gen. Santos 49 yrs old

Manuel Tagmong
Area 1 Blk. 3, Diego Silang St. Brgy. Fatima, Gen. Santos, 51 yrs old

Teresa C. Emejas
Pob. Malungon, Sarangani Province, 47 yrs old

Nolita J. Tamon
Purok 2 Katangawan Gen. Santos City, 39 yrs old

Jude C. Nable
Brgy. Libertad Surallah South Cotabato, 34 yrs old

Rosalie Jaro
Bo. 1 Banga, South Cotabato, 38 yrs old

Darius Elisan
Malvar St., Surallah, South Cotabato, 29 yrs old

Fe Banaag
Pob. Magpet, Cotabato City, 41 yrs old

Emerita Gocela
Purok 5 Rajah Muda Bula, Gen. Santos City 40 yrs old

Resalie B. Espina
J.P. Cabaguio Ave., Davao City 38 yrs old

Enrico B. Gallardo
Bucana Village, De Guzman St., Toril, Davao City 67 yrs old

Emily B. Dahuyag
B 32 L26 PH-1 NHA, Bangkal, Davao City, 33 yrs old

Carlota A. Logronio
85 Roxas Ave. Davao City 42 yrs old

Romano O. Delos Reyes, Sr.
Mintrade Drive New Fatima St. Brgy. Centro Agdao Davao City 37 yrs old

Wilma Palero
106 Quezon Blvd., Davao City, 39 yrs old

Rosalina L. Damayo
91-5 Purok 12, Tibungco, Davao City, 55 yrs old

Jackylen M. Kabingue
FD Rd. J. Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, 40 yrs old

Nelson M. Haguimit
34 Carmona St., Aplaya, Digos City, 36 yrs old

Rosemarie Medrano
MINTRA AALA Bldg. Anda, Davao City, 45 yrs old

Tito O. Mante
398 Vasquez St. Surigao City, 46 yrs old

Myrna P. Dialoja
Tayaga Claver, Surigao del Norte 8410, 43 yrs old

Malilang P. Sugoy
2 Don T. V. Juliano Ave. Cotabato City, 67 yrs old

Lazarcon P. Gonzales
UPPER MAKING Parang Maguindanao, 26 yrs old

Marina B. Villanueva
Rizal Ave. Kabacan, Cotabato City 9407, 51 yrs old

Jazelynn Inojales
Purok 2 Lanao, Kidapawan City, 29 yrs old

Sylvia F. Samson
Kabaluan Kabacan Cotabato City 9407, 40 yrs old

Genovivo P. Cublan
Camp Jose Abad Santos, Capitan St., Malabang, Lanao del Sur 57 yrs old

STORE OUTLET WINNERS

(4) FIRST PRIZES P50,000.00 CASH

GMA

Nunez Store
Concessionaire Area, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.

LUZON

Marlene's Store
Brgy. Luba, Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur

VISAYAS

C - S Store
Montinola St., Victorias City, Negros Occ.

MINDANAO

Amaico
Ampayon, Butuan City

(8) SECOND PRIZES P25,000.00 CASH

GMA

Forest Hill Gen. Merchandise
3 Christ. Forest Hill Subd., Novaliches, Quezon City

Felix Store
Gen. Luna St., Ampid II, San Mateo, Rizal

LUZON

Aida's Store
B65L1-A San Martin IV AREA C, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan

No Store Winner

VISAYAS

URSUMCO Canteen
Alangilanan Manj. Negros Oriental

No Store Winner

MINDANAO

Charmiene Store
R.T. Lim St., Pagadian City

Carlos Store
ASAI Village, Bula, Gen. Santos City

(16) THIRD PRIZES P10,000.00 CASH

GMA

Mila's Store
1607 Neptuno St., Paco, Manila

Linda's Sari-Sari Store
4061 Sarah St., [illegible] Lupa, Valenzuela City, MM

Cora Junio
112 8th Ave., West David St., Grace Park, Kalookan City

De los Santos Store
10-17th St., Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

LUZON

Bunan Store
Cabilan, Mundaon, Masbate City

Lim Enterprises
Zimbito St., Masbate City

SUNLIFE Grocery
Cauayan City

No Store Winner

VISAYAS

AC'S Store
Gen. Luna St. Pob., Cauayan, Negros Occidental

DAO Store
Carreras St., San Jose, Antique

Aling Nita
A-36 Public Market, Toledo City, Cebu

Libra Mart Inc.
Locsin St., Bacolod City

MINDANAO

Liza Store
Purok 8, [illegible] Butuan City

Virgie Store
53 Magsaysay St., Miputak, Dipolog City

M.B.M. Sari-Sari Store
Pala-o, Iligan City

No Store Winner

DOH-BFAD no. 0252-2003

Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Bata shoots down Germans

REYES: Ticket to semifinals

EFREN "Bata" Reyes posted back-to-back wins against his German rivals over the weekend to assure himself of a semifinal berth in the World Pool League in Warsaw, Poland.

The 49-year-old Reyes, who won this event in 2001, first beat reigning World Pool champion Thorsten Hohmann, 6-4, before downing former world champion Oliver Ortmann by the same score to notch his third win in four matches. Together with a drawn match, the Filipino now has 7.0 points.

Reyes, fresh off his victory in the recent 9-Ball World Classic in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, is likely to be joined in the Final Four by Taiwan's Hui Kai-Hsia (6.0 points), 1996 US Open champion Rodney Morris (6.0) and Hohmann (4.0).

Reigning World Pool Masters champion Tony Drago of Malta and Ortmann were the only players with a mathematical chance of advancing to the next round.

The hitherto unbeaten Hsia suffered his first setback in the hands of Morris, 2-8, Saturday in the annual tournament where the winner stands to receive $15,000.

Morris who lost his first round match to Reyes, 4-6, improved his chances by winning his next three matches.

In Sunday night's pairing, Drago meets Ortmann, Hsia collides with Reyes and Morris faces Hohmann.

Marlon Bernardino

Antonio rules Thailand chess tilt by full point

ANTONIO

GRANDMASTER Rogelio Antonio, Jr. drew his ninth and final round match with International Master Alexey Romanov of Russia yesterday to rule the 3rd Bangkok International Open in Pattaya, Thailand.

The Southeast Asian Games-bound Antonio, who was seeded second here with his Elo rating of 2521, agreed to halve the point with Romanov after only 15 moves of a Caro-Kann game to win the tournament with a total of 7.5 points.

The Filipino finished a full point ahead of defending champion GM Ruslan Pogorelov of Russia in the event that lured five GMs.

Antonio, the Philippines' third GM after Eugene Torre and Rosendo Balinas, beat IM Myo Naing of Myanmar in the seventh round before putting the tournament away with still a round to go by outmaneuvering Fide Master Ptri Kekki of Finland.

Pogorelov tied for second to sixth places at 6.5 points with GM Alexei Barsov of Ukraine, IM Alexey Romanov and Myanmar's Wynn Zaw Thun and IM Myo Naing.

Another Filipino bet, GM Bong Villamayor, wound up in a tie for seventh with compatriot IM Nelson Mariano and Myanmar's GM Zaw Win Lay and IM Zaw Oo.

NM Marlon Bernardino

Phone Pals halt skid, nip Kings

By Dennis U. Eroa

WORKHORSE Damian Cantrell shone but it was Victor Pablo who grabbed the spotlight last night as Talk 'N Text snapped a four-match losing streak with a crunching 97-95 squeaker over Barangay Ginebra in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Flashing a ferocious all-around game, Cantrell scattered 36 points, including a crucial three-point play off Erik Menk which laid the groundwork for the Phone Pals' blistering finish.

Cantrell's three-point play came after the bullstrong Menk had made two free throws off Asi Taulava, 93-92, 1:15 remaining and the Kings looked ready to nail their second straight win over the Phone Pals.

Both teams are already in the quarterfinals, but with their 7th win in 12 outings, the Phone Pals gained the upperhand for the number three spot. Ginebra, which beat Talk 'N Text, 95-90, last Oct. 15 at the Philsports Arena, dropped to 6-6 in Group B lorded over by Coca-Cola (11-1) and Red Bull (9-2).

It was also coach Joel Banal's first win after losing his first two since reassuming his coaching post for the Phone Pals. Before conquering Ginebra, the Phone Pals last won over Sta. Lucia, 89-81, last Sept. 28. at the same venue.

A miss by Menk led to a Cantrell charity split and things seemed bad for Ginebra as Bal David issued a hasty baseline pass which was intercepted by Pablo. Patrick Fran, who did a good job quarterbacking Talk 'N Text, made another free throw as the Phone Pals surged ahead, 97-93, 37 ticks left.

The predominantly Kings' crowd came alive when Mark Caguioa drove hard for a basket, 95-97, and coach Allan Caidic's troopers had a golden chance to salvage the tiff when Pablo missed a jumper, 12 seconds left.

But Caguioa missed twice as the final buzzer sounded, allowing Talk 'N Text to escape with the win.

Thanks to Pablo, the Phone Pals prevented a Kings' breakaway in the third period. Ginebra posted an early 53-44 lead, but the Phone Pals, with Cantrell and Pablo scoring heavily, roared back to wrest the upperhand, 72-68, going into the final 12 minutes of play.

In the last game, quarterfinalist Sta. Lucia Realty relied on the sparkling plays of Kenneth Duremdes, Dennis Espino and Damian Owens to trip Purefoods, 90-84. The Realtors snapped a two-game losing streak for a 7-5 card, while the Hotdogs slumped to a 3-9 slate in Group A.

GAMES ON WEDNESDAY
(Philsports Arena)
5 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Red Bull
7:30 p.m.—Alaska vs FedEx

Scores:

First game:

TALK 'N TEXT 97—Cantrell 36, Pablo 24, Taulava 13, Alapag 8, Carey 6, Fran 6, Ravena 4, Locsin 0, Telan 0, Belano 0

GINEBRA 95—Ellis 29, Menk 24, Adducul 11, Caguioa 10, Limpot 9, David 8, Crisano 4, Salvacion 0, Dimaunahan 0, Johnson 0

Quarters: 26-24, 44-51, 72-68, 95-95.

Second game:

STA. LUCIA 90—Owens 23, Espino 22, Duremdes 19, Aquino 14, Francisco 8, Webb 2, Victolero 2, Ong 0, Mendoza 0, Adriano 0.

PUREFOODS 84—Cooke 38, Fernandez 14, Castillo 10, Raymundo 8, Seigle 6, Evangelista 4, Patrimonio 3, mamaril 2, Santos 0.

Quarters: 18-24, 41-49, 69-62, 90-84.

ASI Taulava grabs the rebound with authority. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

PBA tackles proposed new format today

By June Navarro

ALASKA coach Tim Cone is optimistic the proposed single-season championship would bring positive changes in the Philippine Basketball Association.

"Personally, I like the idea. I've been here for some time and from a personal standpoint, it needs some change," said Cone, referring to the usual February-December, three-conference format of the league.

Cone's sentiments came a day before the all-powerful PBA Board of Governors tackles the proposal of commissioner Noli Eala calling for just one championship for the entire season during its regular monthly meeting.

"If you look at the league now, it looks successful enough. But if you compare the way it was 6-7 or 10-15 years ago, it wasn't that successful," said Cone, who has guided the Aces to the league's fourth grand slam in his 14 years as Alaska coach.

Although the proposed format calling for the PBA to start its calendar year from October to May offers a lot of promise, Cone has a few reservations.

"If I do have reservations about it, it is because it would eschew history a little bit. No more grand slam in a year and it gives everybody less chances of winning," said Cone.

Cone and his Aces were the last team to win a grandslam in 1996. Alaska has 11 titles in a span of almost two decades, joining San Miguel Beer and the now defunct Crispa squad in the elite list of teams with at least 10 championships.

While traditions will have to be broken, Cone noted that the National Basketball Association had also adopted drastic changes before it reached the pinnacle of success.

SPORTSWATCH

Army-Tanauan woodpushers ahead

NINTH seeded Philippine Army-Tanauan City edged 7th ranked UST "B", 2.5-1.5, Saturday to share the lead with 15th seed PSGDO-Laguna which beat Page Jeca Advertising by the same score in the fourth round of the 2nd Alabang Town Center 2050-and-under chess team championships at the Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa City. Army-Tanauan and PSGDO-Laguna now have identical 4 points and were paired in yesterday's fifth round for the solo lead of the P70,000 Swiss system team event sanctioned by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines. Meanwhile, lawyer Constantin Marcaida posted his fourth straight point and led the individual race. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Junior golf league Open up at Cangolf

NINETY-SIX jungolfers, led by defending overall champion Mikee Camitoc and the multi-titled Miguel Tabuena, are seeing action in the second TJGL Junior Golf Open blasting off tomorrow at the north course of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club. Tee-off is shotgun style at 8 a.m. The big field will be vying for division honors in Classes A to E in the 18-hole event presented by CityGolf to celebrate the second year anniversary of The Junior Golfers League. The tourney is part of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines' school season program. Major sponsors of the tourney are MX Technology, 1st Sterling Components, Cargo Haus/Lina Group of Companies, Minami, GMV, Lea Ronal/Shipley Asia Ltd., Amcor Tech Site APM, MX CIT, Micron Precision, Friends of Beverly Mendoza, PisantiGolf, Globe Quest and Philips. For inquiries, call or text the TJGL Secretariat at 0918-9450508.

Stagfighter of the Year known today

BIGTIME cockers are expected to figure in a non-stop, slambang action in today's 3rd Ucap 7-Stag Derby at the fully-airconditioned Araneta Coliseum beginning at 5p.m. A total of 63 fights will spice up today's derby to be hosted by Jet Fernando of Pampanga and Alex Tang of Bicol. The Ucap Stagfighter of the Year winner will also be known after this derby. Newspaper publisher Butch Macasaet and former Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, fresh from bagging the NCA Stagfighter plum, are among the top contenders for the Ucap Stagfighter award. Also in the hunt are hotelier Biboy Enriquez, Tony Lasala, sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Dr. Ayong Lorenzo, Anthony Lim, Sonny Lagon, Jun and Rudy Jingco, Louie Cua, Gerry Ramos and Mayor Nene Aguilar. For inquiries, call 911-3101 and 911-2928.

La Loma 4-cock derby set Dec. 16

PREPARATIONS are under way for the staging of La Loma Cockpit Arena's 4-Cock derby on Dec. 16, to be hosted by promoter Bebot Yu. For an entry fee of P11,000, the guaranteed prize at stake is P300,000, said Yu, who also hosted LLCA's 4-cock event last year which attracted 57 entries. The winning handler and gaffer will get P30,000 and P20,000, respectively. With more than 100 fights expected, the derby will start promptly at 3 p.m. For inquiries, call 740-7398, 740-2136 and 740-7392. Submission of weights is on Dec. 15, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., and on the day of the derby, from 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. LLCA's regular hackfights are schduled every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

'Balitang Bakbakan' starts airing today

SPONSORS Thunderbird Power Feeds and Univet Agricultural Products, Inc. are providing a monthlong coverage of the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders Association's Bakbakan 2003 8-Stag National Derby, including the nine regional elimination stages leading to the finals set Nov. 22, 24 and 26 at the Araneta Coliseum. The program will be aired in the Thunderbird Balitang Bakbakan portion of the radio show "Hataw" between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., anchored by Deo Macalma and Ruth Abao-Espinosa. Listeners will get updates on the results of each regional elimination as well as opinions from NFGB cockers and breeders such as Mayor Juancho Aguirre, Boy Diaz, Biboy Enriquez and Lance de la Torre. This morning's initial airing will have federation president Ricoy Palmares of Iloilo City as guest. Sponsoring the Balitang-Bakbakan portion are Enertone Ready-Mixed Concentrate and Thunderbird Platinum.

MILO MARATHON CHAMPS
Liza Yambao and Crisanto Canillo proudly display their trophies after topping the 27th National MILO Marathon last Sunday. Others in photo are (from left) race organizer Rudy Biscocho, Nestle Phils. VP for Beverages Eugene David, DepEd's Dr. Noemi Villosillo, and MILO Sports executive Pat Goc-Ong.

Dionisio leads Toby's 1st round winners

PRINCESS Jeaneth Dionisio downed Mary Ann Dimaculangan, 5-11, 13-10, 11-3, yesterday to lead the first-round winners in the girls' 14-under singles of the Toby's Age-Group Badminton Championships at the La Salle-Greenhills gym.

Other winners were Jessica Tantengko over Mariel Villanueva, 11-5, 11-3; Elisha Palomares over Lorelle Espinosa, 11-8, 11-8; Joanne Pascual over Sarah Luz Viado, 11-0, 11-0; Rochelle Ann Reyes over Gerrylyn Glico, 11-7, 13-10; Nina Rebecca Ramos over Clara Puyat, 11-8, 11-6; Ma. Venizza Francisco over Janette Christine ernandez, 11-6, 11-0; Carla Jenina Lizardo over Jane Rebenito, 11-3, 11-1; Jamka Fatima Cruz over Mary Rodelyn Villoria, 11-1, 11-0; Jacqueline Rivera over Nechave Vetales, 11-5, 11-0; Charisse Torres over Aljemah David, 11-1, 11-2; and Diomalyn Dayao over Jaevena Subilla, 11-8, 13-11.

In the girls' 12-under singles, Irish Lacorte rallied past Brittany Co, 8-11, 11-9, 11-8, to advance in the second round against Julie Pearl Daynata, who won by default over Marna Virtudes.

Margie Ofalsa beat Victoria Andres, 11-4, 11-1; Anjelica Ancheta downed Clara Puyat, 11-1, 11-1; Ma. Paula Villarin demolished Rose Marie Prado, 11-0, 11-1; Rachel Halili blanked Sybil Adrian Martinez, 11-0, 11-0; and Angelica de Guzman dumped Joenalyn Deliarte, 11-2, 11-0, to also earn second round berths in this weeklong event sponsored by adidas, Carlton, Wilson, RSL, Prince, Gosen, KFC, SM Shoemart, 103.5 K-Lite, Taraflex and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Alabang ladies regain WGAP overall crown

ALABANG recaptured the overall title of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) Circuit recently, ending the two-year reign of Sta. Elena.

Alabang likewise earned the top-seeding in the season-ending WGAP Cup, a competition with a Ryder Cup format, after finishing on top of the standings with 32 points.

Sta. Elena placed second with 24 points, Wack Wack claimed third with 20 while Villamor clinched the fourth and last spot with 18 points.

Wack Wack banked on its Class A victory in the eighth and last leg played at Sta. Elena to earn its WGAP Cup spot while Villamor rode on its runner-up finish behind Sta. Elena in Class B and third place showing in Class A to edge out Forest Hills, which won Class C, and Southwoods for the last slot.

The WGAP Cup, a three-week showdown, starts on Nov. 3 at the Country Club, moves to the Palmer course of Orchard on Nov. 10 and concludes at Manila Golf on Nov. 17.

Emerging as overall champions were Southwoods in Class A, Villamor in Class B and Alabang in Class C.

Ting Yupangco of Villamor crowned herself the overall individual champion with 288 points, beating Beachie Abiera of Southwoods by four.

Bing Liboro, Liza Lopez, Stephanie Yu, Vicky Farrales aggregated 145 to beat the fancied Southwoods team by four in Class A; Fely Lopez, Mary Ann Colayco, Nancy Co and Karen Molhant scored 150 to give Sta. Elena a three-point win over Villamor in Class B while the Forest Hills quartet of Carmen Co, Lourdes Chua, Marilyn Co and Trina Francisco posted 132 to win over Southwoods.

Bautistas top Avon 3K fun run

LEILA and Celine Bautista emerged the Best Mother and Daughter tandem in yesterday's Me & My Mom Against Breat Cancer 3-kilometer fun run at the CCP Complex ground in Pasay City.

Celine clocked 19 minutes and 42 seconds and Leila timed 21:42 for a total running time of 41:24 to top the Avon-sponsored race held in partnership with the Philippine Cancer Society, Inc and Run And Compete Enterprise (RACE).

Ruling the event's centerpiece event, the individual race, was 18-year-old Christie Joy Venuza, who crossed the finish line in 15:14, a mere eight seconds ahead of runner-up Dianne Calaje.

Copping third place was Chalyn Bueta at 17:39.

The top three finishers in the Mom's category were Soledad Subibi (18:18), Glorifina Supsup (18:40) and Leticia Lopez (19:26).

Bapi brass in PSA Forum

THE RAGING issue in local amateur basketball will be tomorrow's featured discussion in the PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion.

Leading the week's guests is Basketball Association of the Philippines Inc. (BAPI) secretary-general Nic Jorge, who will be making a major announcement in the public sports program sponsored by Red Bull, Agfa Colors and Pagcor.

Meanwhile, the PSA is now accepting nominations for its 2003 Athlete of the Year award.

Nalbandian ousts Roddick

BASEL, Switzerland—Argentina's David Nalbandian brushed aside the challenge of top-seed and US Open champion Andy Roddick, 7-5, 7-5, in the semifinals of the one-million-euro Swiss Indoors here on Saturday.

As well as strengthening his chances of grabbing the eighth and final spot for the season-ending Masters Cup in Houston next month, the win also prevented Roddick from regaining the ATP Champions Race lead from Juan Carlos Ferrero who didn't play here this week.

"I feel great. I'm playing very good this week," said Nalbandian. "It was a very close match. He didn't serve very well today, that was the difference."

On Sunday, Nalbandian meets countryman Guillermo Coria, who advanced to his seventh final of the year, beating Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic, 6-4, 6-4.

Coria, who is seeking his fifth title of the year, can pass Andre Agassi for fourth position in the ATP Champions Race if he wins the title on Sunday.

Despite the defeat, Roddick was still optimistic about his chances for the rest of the season starting in Paris next week. *AFP*

Singh shines; Woods wanes

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida—Vijay Singh made three straight birdies to start the back nine and holed a 25-foot birdie putt on the 16th hole Saturday for a 3-under 69 that left him in a four-way tie for the Funai Classic lead at Disney.

Scott Verplank (66), Stewart Cink (66) and John Rollins (67) also were at 18-under 196.

Singh not only is shooting for his fourth victory of the year, but with Tiger Woods stumbling on the back nine for a 71, the big Fijian has an excellent chance to surpass Woods on the money list and maybe even clinch by the time they get to the Tour Championship.

David Peoples had a 69 and was at 200.

Davis Love III, also in the running to win the money title, was poised to join the leaders until he drove into the left rough on the 18th hole. Worse yet, he chunked a chip short of the green—it traveled a mere 16 feet—and took double bogey for a 69 to finish at 201.

Woods had three bogeys on the final five holes for a 71, ending a streak of 14 consecutive rounds in the 60s at Disney and dropping him out of contention. *AP*

Marvelous Marlins

Beckett shuts out Yankees as Florida takes W'Series

NEW YORK—Josh Beckett pitched a five-hit shutout and struck out nine while Luis Castillo snapped a slump by knocking in the winning run as the Florida Marlins beat New York, 2-0, here Saturday to win the World Series.

Beckett made the last out by tagging Jorge Posada as he ran to first base to bring the Marlins their second title in seven years, beating the Yankees four games to two in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven championship series.

"I was fortunate enough to have one more good game left in me," said Beckett after the Marlins became the first visiting team in 22 years to finish a post-season series at Yankee Stadium.

Beckett was mobbed by his teammates in the infield in a wild celebration after the final out.

"It is a big relief," said Beckett, the World Series Most Valuable Player.

Beckett was superb in the deciding game, pitching on just three days' rest instead of the usual four. He walked two and threw 107 pitches, 71 of them strikes, in front of a crowd of 55,773.

Beckett struggled on the road this season, going 2-6, but improved in the post-season to become the first pitcher since 1991 to pitch a complete-game shutout in the deciding World Series game.

"Beckett did a tremendous job," said Marlins' manager Jack McKeon, who at 72 became the oldest manager to win a World Series. "This guy is special. He's got the guts of a burglar and he's mentally tough. I can't believe how much he has matured in the last month."

Castillo, who had been batting 1-for-17, broke out of his slump with a run-scoring single in the fifth inning to break a scoreless deadlock.

His two-out single scored Alex Gonzalez and resulted in a close play at the plate, but Gonzalez just beat the tag of Posada at home to make it 1-0.

Juan Encarnacion hit a sacrifice fly to right field to score Jeff Conine in the sixth inning with Florida's final run.

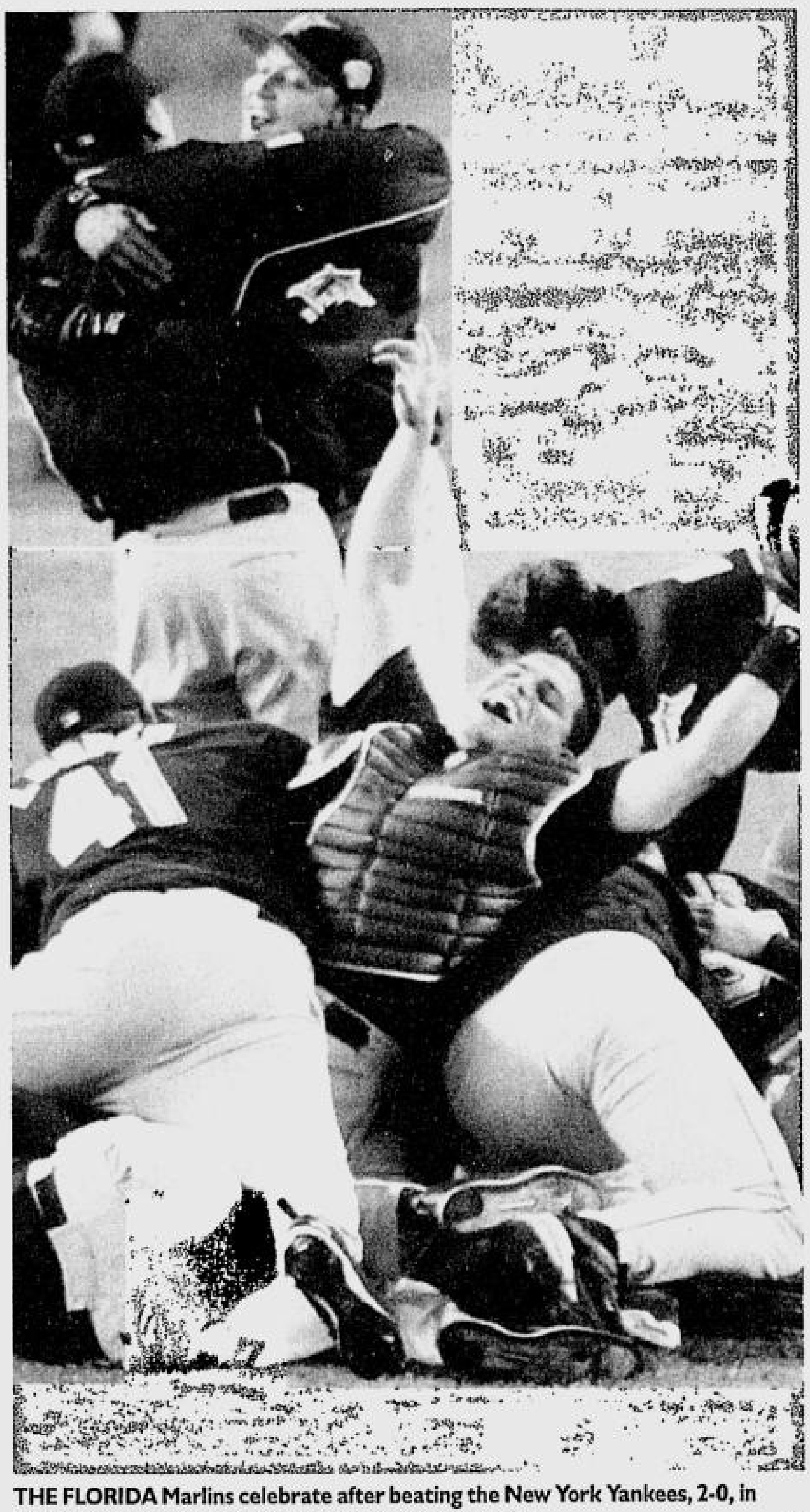
For the second game in a row, the Marlins did what they do best—spread their hitting around. Five different Marlins contributed to their seven hits.

Florida seemed to come out of nowhere this year, making the playoffs as a wild card team and then having to rally in three straight post-season series.

The Marlins' $60-million payroll is one-third of the Yankees' payroll.

Yankees starter Andy Pettitte pitched four strong innings before absorbing most of the damage when the Marlins tacked on a run each in the fifth and sixth. He gave up six hits, two runs and walked three in seven innings of work.

The Yankees, who have been in five of the last seven World Series but lost in their past two trips, dropped a playoff series at home for the first time since they where beaten by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 1981 World Series. *AFP*



THE FLORIDA Marlins celebrate after beating the New York Yankees, 2-0, in Game 6 to win the World Series in New York Saturday. AP

MVP pitcher has the 'guts of a burglar'

NEW YORK—Josh Beckett pitched with the determined demeanor of a Bob Gibson or a Sandy Koufax and came up with the game of his life on baseball's grandest stage.

On a night that he'll always remember and New York will never forget, the 23-year-old right-hander led the Marlins to the World Series title Saturday.

"Sometimes, less is more," he said.

Beckett pitched a five-hitter on three 'days' rest that won him the World Series MVP award. He looked like—well, even better than—those multimillion-dollar Yankees starters who grace magazine covers and get all the attention.

"We wanted to come in here, and that's who we wanted to play," Beckett said. "If you are going to beat somebody, why not beat the best?"

BECKETT AP

In the 100th World Series game played in Yankee Stadium, Beckett eliminated the Bronx No-Longer-Bombers from the Series on their famous field for only the seventh time and the first since 1981 when they lost to the Los Angeles Dodgers. And he did it with the first complete-game shutout in a clincher since Minnesota's Jack Morris in 1991, becoming the youngest pitcher to blank an opponent in a Series finale since 21-year-old Bret Saberhagen beat St. Louis for Kansas City in 1985.

"This guy has got the guts of a burglar," Marlins manager Jack McKeon said. "He's mentally tough. And I knew he had the confidence to go out there and do the job that he did tonight. This guy is going to be something special."

Beckett even got the final out all by himself. He scooped up a little grounder by catcher Jorge Posada and tagged him near first base. Beckett then pumped his fist and was lifted onto his teammates' shoulders, thrusting his hands into the air and waving his cap. *AP*

My bet's on Bata Reyes

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE STAGE is set for tomorrow afternoon's much-awaited, four-day "Battle of Champions" between the Philippines and the United States-Europe at Robinson's Galleria in Mandaluyong City. Who will win?

Purely on form and based on his most recent record, I pick our very own Efren "Bata" Reyes, the toothless "Magician," to win this year-ending billiards blockbuster jointly promoted by Puyat Sports and ABS-CBN's Broadcasting Corp. The subject of virtually every pool-related topic since he won the 1999 World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Reyes, 49, is the most dominant pool player in contemporary billiards history. He is a thinking player who takes as much pride in his awesome safety game as he does in his natural shotmaking ability although he admits to having a weak break.

"Some players have a powerful break, but in the long run they lose some of their power. Over a long match I don't suffer from my weak break," Reyes said during an interview. Much admired for his humble and simple ways, Reyes will lead the four-man Philippine team also composed of veteran internationalists Francisco "Django" Bustamante, Canada-based Alex Pagulayan and promising local pro Venancio Tanio, who earned the fourth slot after topping a star-studded elimination tournament at AMF-Puyat Bowling Inn that featured some of the country's renowned players as world-rated Rodolfo "Boy" Luat, Leonardo Andam, Lee Van Corteza, Warren Kiamco and Marlon Manalo.

The Philippine team will play against the most feared players in professional pool like Johnny "The Scorpion" Archer and Earl "The Pearl" Strickland of the United States and reigning World Pool champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany and Mika "The Iceman" Immonen of Finland.

While the Philippine side enjoys the hometown advantage, it will not be exactly a walk in the park for Bata Reyes and Company. In my opinion, American Johnny Archer is the man to reckon with in this tourney. Why?

With his vast experience and enviable record, the 35-year-old Archer (he was born on Nov. 12, 1968 in Twin City, Georgia) is in the same class as the toughest pool room dudes, on record even better than some of the very best in the international circuit.

Archer is a consistent winner of several major tournaments for nearly two decades. Apart from being a former US Open champion in 1999, Archer also boasts an amazing record of having won the World Pool Championship three times in 1992, 1993 and 1995. In 1997, he nosed out Reyes and Luat in the US Pro Billiards Tour rankings, garnering 1,625 points against Reyes' 1,415 and Luat's 1,275.

Recalling his entry into the sport, Archer said, "When I was about 11 years old, I went to an arcade to play video games. I got bored with them and because they had a pool table in the back, I started playing pool. I got hooked on billiards after that and I rode my bike to a pool hall about 12 miles from where I lived just to play. The guy who owned the pool room, Chester Flynt, took me under his wings."

At age 13, Archer started joining competitions, saying the first biggest tournament he ever went to was at the Chattanooga Billiard Club where the great Nick Varner won. "Earl (Strickland) was my big idol and I was practicing at a table there and he saw me, came over and introduced himself. We played a few games and he taught me some lessons. I won my first tournament in 1988—when I emerged champion of the Huebler Cup championship in Ft. Collins, Colorado."

Except for Hohmann, Archer's other teammates are familiar to Filipino billiards fans as frequent Manila visitors. Strickland, one of the best players to ever chalk a cue, is best remembered for beating Bustamante in last year's nail-biting finals of the Cardiff World Pool Championship. A pool player for more than 30 years, Strickland is a many-time world 9-ball champion.

Immonen, now pushing 30, made sports history in 2001 when he won the World Pool Championship. Early this year during the inaugural On Cue Philippines-versus-Europe showdown here, Immonen defeated Ralf Souquet of Germany in an all-European finals. Immonen is popular among Filipino fans because of his pleasant personality, charm and determined good sense. The 24-year-old Hohmann is making his first visit to the Philippines.

***

A BIG LETDOWN. Many were disappointed that the government failed to bring to the attention of US President George W. Bush the toxic waste issue during his short state visit here recently. The toxic contamination in the former American military bases in Clark Field and Subic Bay should have been a topic for discussion, but it was not taken up.

"It was dismal," said Von Hernandez, chair of the People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup and Greenpeace International Asia coordinator. "While the government pandered to Bush's so-called war on terror, the victims of US toxic terrorism on Philippine soil remain lamentably forgotten."

For years, the bases cleanup issue has been taken for granted by the government despite the incontrovertible evidence of toxic contamination in these bases. A study showed that 21 out of 24 locations sampled at Clark had at least one pollutant that exceeded drinking water standards. Prof. Paul Bloom, soil scientist from the University of Minnesota, once said that if a similar study were to be released in America, "all hell would break loose." But since many in this Third World nation lack the time and resources to investigate and ventilate the issue, these startling findings remain largely invisible to the public.

CHAMPS: Winners in the recently concluded Plantation Hills-Midlands golf tournament held at the Midlands Golf Course in Tagaytay pose with officials of the organizing Belle Corp. In photo, front row (L-R): Belle Corp. vice chairman Willy Ocier, Joselito Santos, Rod Lejano, Ildefonso Chan, Rogelio Gan, Ben Jacinto, Porfirio Flores, Carolina Nielsen, Minerva Jentes, Sonny Bitong, Domingo Bonifacio, Jerome Velasco, Agnes Dekok, Nicole Vornis, Elphege Wong, Lilia Paterro, Tracy Locsin. Back row (left to right): Midlands assistant GM Loy Bernardino, Ernest Cuyegkeng, Willy Pamplona, Rod Sanchez, Goody Hernandez, Bobby Ng, Tony De Ubago, Rowen Umilin, Edward Puno, Club President Jerry Tiu, George Goduco, Eddie Gobing and general manager Nick Celdran.

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SPORTS

Wind Blown, Midnight Lady triumph

ZARATE takes it easy as Wind Blown crosses the finish line.

By Edwin Villanueva

HE CAME back. He raced. He won.

Wind Blown returned to the racing scene in victorious fashion last night as he walloped the field in the Saddle & Clubs Special race at the jam-packed Santa Ana Park.

Displaying the old, powerful strides racing fans missed in the last six months, Wind Blown swept home to an impressive four-length win to share the day's limelight with a fast-rising import named Midnight Girl.

While Wind Blown sent the crowd roaring in delight as dusk set in, Midnight Girl caught everyone's fancy early in the afternoon by bringing down Triple Crown two-leg winner West Bound in the Sta. Lucia Realty Cup.

"*Salamat at nakaraos.* He's definitely back," said Hermie Esguerra, Wind Blown's owner, who flew in from a business trip abroad just to catch his prized galloper make his comeback race since losing at the same track last April.

"Hopefully we'll enter him in the coming Philtobo-Mitra Cup and then the Marho Breeders' Cup," added Esguerra, referring to the Nov. 9 and Nov. 23 racing festivals, where Wind Blown is expected to be fielded in the Classic.

Wind Blown, bred by Sandy Javier and trained by Nestor Manalang, covered the 1,500-meter race in 1:34 flat, with star jockey Jeffril Zarate easing him up in the last 50 meters.

"*Preskong presko. Marami pa,*" said Zarate, reunited with the 7-year-old Hazm-Wind in My Hair progeny whom he last rode to victory in a regular race last July 29, 2001.

It was the 34th win (22 stakes races) in 47 career starts for the 2001 and 2002 Horse of the Year, who has now earned more than P18 million, the most by any local galloper.

Another Esguerra Stable entry, Real Slew, followed Wind Blown home, with 2001 Triple Crown champion Silver Story hobbling to finish third, after challenging the winner at the backside. All For Glory was fourth, while Royal Lantana was fifth.

Two races earlier, recent Derby winner Midnight Lady (Señor Pete-Midnight Lass) outkicked West Bound down the stretch to prevail by a head under the brilliant driving of Pat Dilema.

"*Matapang lumaban,*" said winning owner Ed Gonzales of the three-year-old chestnut filly who is also set to join the Imports Championship of the Philtobo-Mitra Cup.

Mandella, Pleasantly Perfect shine

HIGH Chaparral, with Michael Kinane at right, and Johar (Alex Solis), figure in the first dead heat in the 20-year history of the Breeders' Cup. AP

ARCADIA, California—Trainer Richard Mandella completed the greatest day in racing history when his Pleasantly Perfect swept past the leaders in the stretch and won the $4-million Breeders' Cup Classic on Saturday.

Mandella, a quiet Californian who often works in the shadow of Bob Baffert and D. Wayne Lukas, also won the $1.5-million Juvenile with Action This Day, the $1-million Juveniles with Halfbridled and his Johar dead-heated with High Chaparral in the $2-million Turf.

But it was Pleasantly Perfect's stunning win in the Classic that had the crowd roaring at Santa Anita.

With favorite Medaglia d'Oro and Congaree locked in a stretch duel, Pleasantly Perfect charged past them on the outside and won by 1 1/2 lengths. Medaglia d'Oro finished second for the second year in a row. Dynever was third.

Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Funny Cide was never in contention and finished ninth in the 10-horse field. Defending champion Volponi, who ran the final race of his career, was last.

Pleasantly Perfect simply ran the best race of his career in beating many of the world's top horses.

The 5-year-old son of Pleasant Colony, ridden by Alex Solis, came into the race off a victory in the Goodwood Handicap three weeks ago on this track. Clearly, the horse loves the course.

And Mandella has himself an early birthday present. The trainer who turns 53 on Nov. 5 won two Breeders' Cup races the last time these championships visited Santa Anita, 10 years ago.

Of the seven horses he ran Saturday, four won and two others cashed, bringing the total earnings to $4,564,040. Trainers earn a standard 10 percent, but expect his owners to deliver some extra cash.

"I never thought lightning would strike twice, but it struck harder," Mandella said.

Mandella played a part in another kind of history as Julie Krone, aboard Halfbridled, became the first female jockey to win a Breeders' Cup race.

While Mandella celebrates, Bobby Frankel will have a hard time recovering from another dismal day at the Breeders' Cup.

He sent out eight horses, including favorites Medaglia d'Oro, Sightseek in the Distaff and Aldebaran in the Sprint— and did not win. He is now 2-for-57 in the Breeders' Cup.

Pleasantly Perfect, ridden by Alex Solis, covered the 1.25 miles in 1:59.88 and returned $30.40, $9.60 and $6.60.

Congaree was fourth, followed by Hold That Tiger, Perfect Drift, Evening Attire, Ten Most Wanted, Funny Cide and Volponi.

The upset virtually assures that the retired Mineshaft will end up as Horse of the Year. Medaglia d'Oro, Perfect Drift and even Funny Cide were ready to stake a claim to the title with a Classic victory.

With the victory, Pleasantly Perfect earned $2,080,000 for Gerald J. Ford, who owns Diamond A Racing Corp.

Leaving from the No. 2 post, Pleasantly Perfect was still seventh with a half-mile to go, and fifth with a quarter-mile left. But when Solis swung his horse outside, Pleasantly Perfect responded with a surge. *AP*

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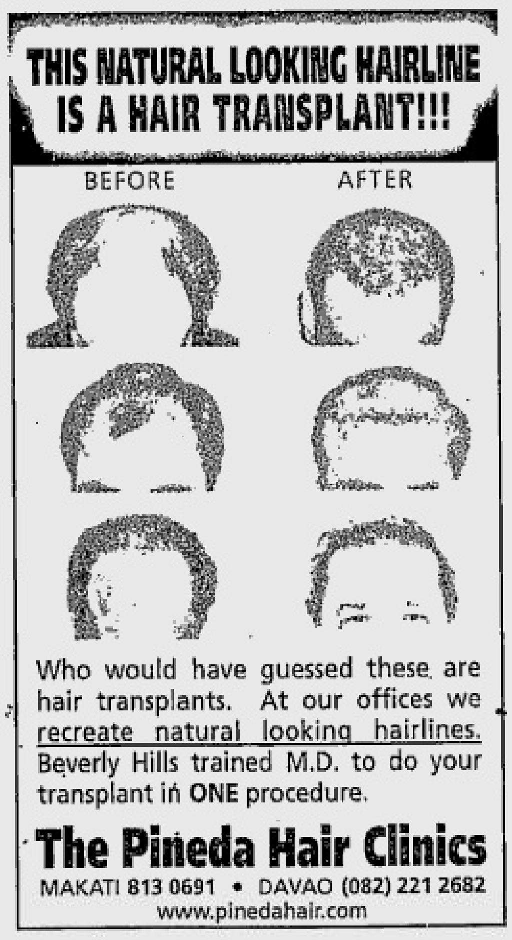
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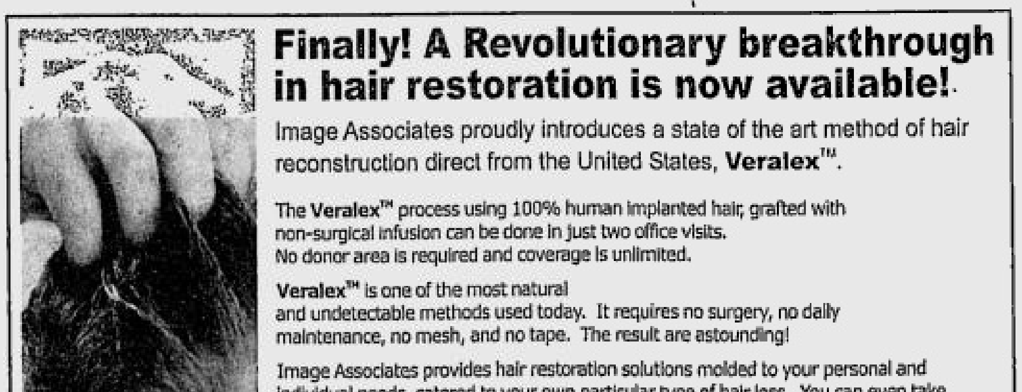
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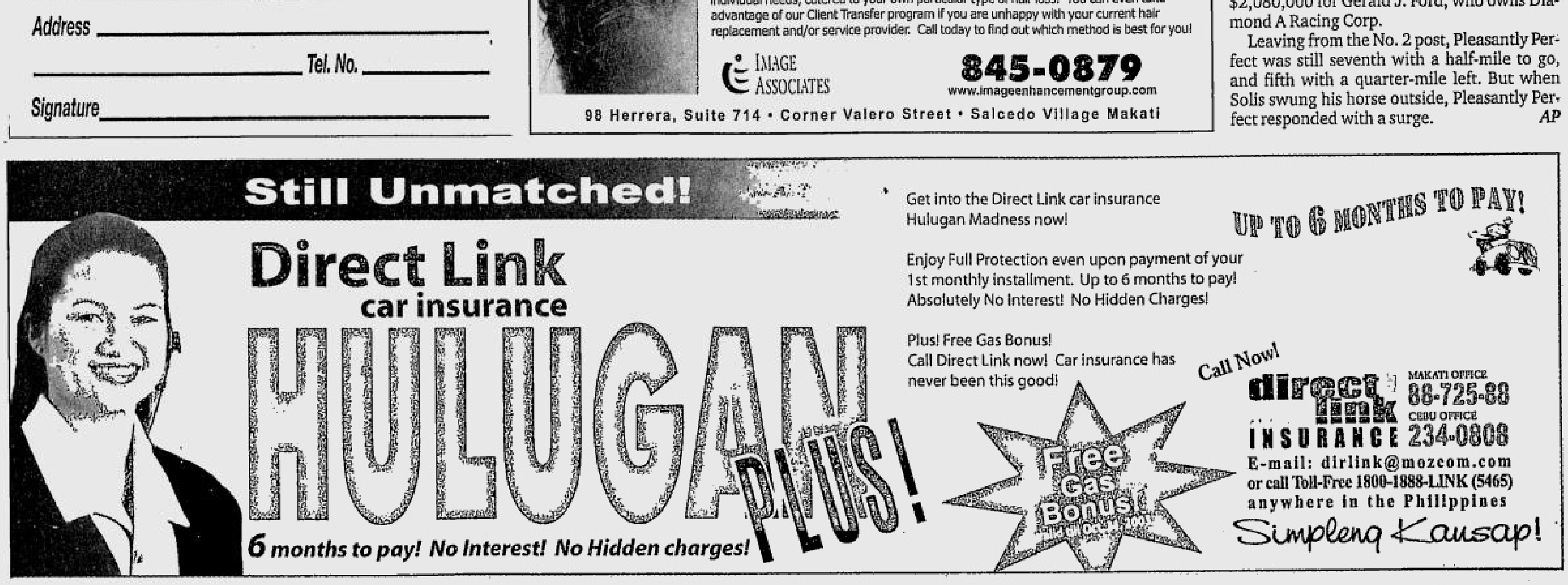
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SPORTS

Wind Blown, Midnight Lady triumph

ZARATE takes it easy as Wind Blown crosses the finish line. EDSY LUCIA

By Edwin Villanueva

HE CAME back. He raced. He won.

Wind Blown returned to the racing scene in victorious fashion last night as he walloped the field in the Saddle & Clubs Special race at the jam-packed Santa Ana Park.

Displaying the old, powerful strides racing fans missed in the last six months, Wind Blown swept home to an impressive four-length win to share the day's limelight with a fast-rising import named Midnight Girl.

While Wind Blown sent the crowd roaring in delight as dusk set in, Midnight Girl caught everyone's fancy early in the afternoon by bringing down Triple Crown two-leg winner West Bound in the Sta. Lucia Realty Cup.

"*Salamat at nakaraos.* He's definitely back," said Hermie Esguerra, Wind Blown's owner, who flew in from a business trip abroad just to catch his prized galloper make his comeback race since losing at the same track last April.

"Hopefully we'll enter him in the coming Philtobo-Mitra Cup and then the Marho Breeders' Cup," added Esguerra, referring to the Nov. 9 and Nov. 23 racing festivals, where Wind Blown is expected to be fielded in the Classic.

Wind Blown, bred by Sandy Javier and trained by Nestor Manalang, covered the 1,500-meter race in 1:34 flat, with star jockey Jeffril Zarate easing him up in the last 50 meters.

"*Preskong presko. Marami pa,*" said Zarate, reunited with the 7-year-old Hazm-Wind in My Hair progeny whom he last rode to victory in a regular race last July 29, 2001.

It was the 34th win (22 stakes races) in 47 career starts for the 2001 and 2002 Horse of the Year, who has now earned more than P18 million, the most by any local galloper.

Another Esguerra Stable entry, Real Slew, followed Wind Blown home, with 2001 Triple Crown champion Silver Story hobbling to finish third, after challenging the winner at the backside. All For Glory was fourth, while Royal Lantana was fifth.

Two races earlier, recent Derby winner Midnight Lady (Señor Pete-Midnight Lass) outkicked West Bound down the stretch to prevail by a head under the brilliant driving of Pat Dilema.

"*Matapang lumaban,*" said winning owner Ed Gonzales of the three-year-old chestnut filly who is also set to join the Imports Championship of the Philtobo-Mitra Cup.

Mandella, Pleasantly Perfect shine

HIGH Chaparral, with Michael Kinane at right, and Johar (Alex Solis), figure in the first dead heat in the 20-year history of the Breeders' Cup. AP

ARCADIA, California—Trainer Richard Mandella completed the greatest day in racing history when his Pleasantly Perfect swept past the leaders in the stretch and won the $4-million Breeders' Cup Classic on Saturday.

Mandella, a quiet Californian who often works in the shadow of Bob Baffert and D. Wayne Lukas, also won the $1.5-million Juvenile with Action This Day, the $1-million Juveniles with Halfbridled and his Johar dead-heated with High Chaparral in the $2-million Turf.

But it was Pleasantly Perfect's stunning win in the Classic that had the crowd roaring at Santa Anita.

With favorite Medaglia d'Oro and Congaree locked in a stretch duel, Pleasantly Perfect charged past them on the outside and won by 1 1/2 lengths. Medaglia d'Oro finished second for the second year in a row. Dynever was third.

Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Funny Cide was never in contention and finished ninth in the 10-horse field. Defending champion Volponi, who ran the final race of his career, was last.

Pleasantly Perfect simply ran the best race of his career in beating many of the world's top horses.

The 5-year-old son of Pleasant Colony, ridden by Alex Solis, came into the race off a victory in the Goodwood Handicap three weeks ago on this track. Clearly, the horse loves the course.

And Mandella has himself an early birthday present. The trainer who turns 53 on Nov. 5 won two Breeders' Cup races the last time these championships visited Santa Anita, 10 years ago.

Of the seven horses he ran Saturday, four won and two others cashed, bringing the total earnings to $4,564,040. Trainers earn a standard 10 percent, but expect his owners to deliver some extra cash.

"I never thought lightning would strike twice, but it struck harder," Mandella said.

Mandella played a part in another kind of history as Julie Krone, aboard Halfbridled, became the first female jockey to win a Breeders' Cup race.

While Mandella celebrates, Bobby Frankel will have a hard time recovering from another dismal day at the Breeders' Cup.

He sent out eight horses, including favorites Medaglia d'Oro, Sightseek in the Distaff and Aldebaran in the Sprint— and did not win. He is now 2-for-57 in the Breeders' Cup.

Pleasantly Perfect, ridden by Alex Solis, covered the 1.25 miles in 1:59.88 and returned $30.40, $9.60 and $6.60.

Congaree was fourth, followed by Hold That Tiger, Perfect Drift, Evening Attire, Ten Most Wanted, Funny Cide and Volponi.

The upset virtually assures that the retired Mineshaft will end up as Horse of the Year. Medaglia d'Oro, Perfect Drift and even Funny Cide were ready to stake a claim to the title with a Classic victory.

With the victory, Pleasantly Perfect earned $2,080,000 for Gerald J. Ford, who owns Diamond A Racing Corp.

Leaving from the No. 2 post, Pleasantly Perfect was still seventh with a half-mile to go, and fifth with a quarter-mile left. But when Solis swung his horse outside, Pleasantly Perfect responded with a surge. *AP*

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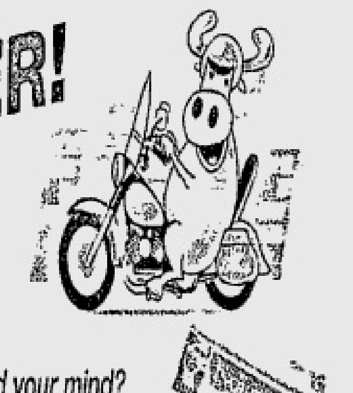

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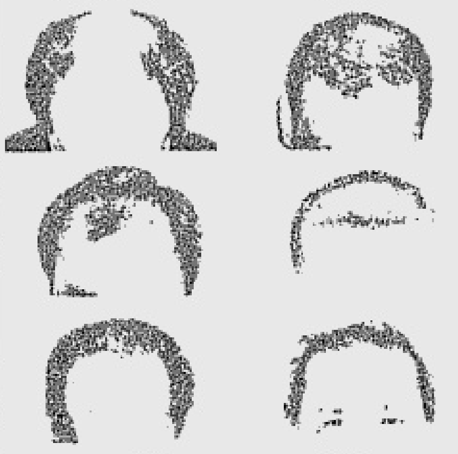

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BSP to further tighten Dosri, SBL rules

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it would issue a circular further tightening the regulations on banks' lending to their directors, officers, stockholders and related interests (Dosri) and on single borrower's limit.

The circular will expand the coverage of the restriction on Dosri loans to cover not only direct loans to bank directors, stockholders and their personal agents, but also those intended for the companies where they have stake, according to BSP Assistant Governor Nestor Espenilla.

Also, Espenilla said that under the planned circular, a corporation and its subsidiaries and affiliates would be treated as a 'single borrower' to be covered by the single borrower's limit. At present, a corporation is treated independently from its subsidiaries and affiliates.

In both instances, banks must ensure that prudential caps set by the BSP would be met to prevent bank failures. The single borrower's limit was set at no more than 20 percent of the bank's networth while a Dosri loan was limited to 15 percent of the unimpaired capital of a bank.

The BSP official said the central bank had finished consulting with bankers on the proposed circular. It will be issued by the end of the year. Banks, however, will likely be given several months to fully comply with the stricter rules, he said.

"Generally it is done. There were no big issues raised during the consultations with the bankers," said Espenilla.

Restrictions on Dosri loans and the single borrower's limit are prudential measures that aim to prevent the concentration of a bank's resources on few individual or corporate borrowers, according to Espenilla.

Insider lending is a major concern for the BSP as it has been the main cause of certain bank failures in the past.

While a bank is not allowed to lend more than 15 percent of its unimpaired capital to Dosri, some insiders are able to skirt the rule by using the companies they own, fully or partially, in getting additional loans.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the stricter policies should strengthen the banking system and help prevent bank failures.

He added that the central bank was determined to raise governance standards for banks to avert failures that might be caused by abuses committed by people who run the banks.

Reyes explained that by tightening the definition of a single corporate borrower, loan defaults by affiliates and subsidiaries could be prevented.

However, the new definition, if approved, could also limit the local companies' access to credit.

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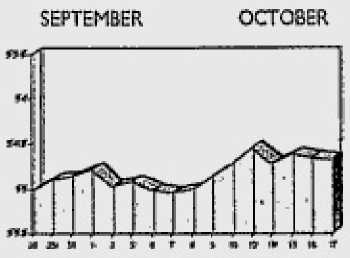

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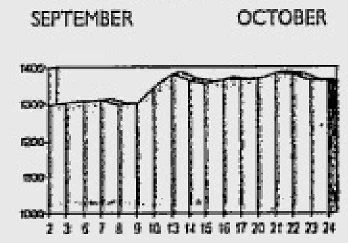


(See stock market report on Page B6)

Slow trading week seen

ANOTHER week of lackluster trading awaits the local stock market as political uncertainties are expected to overshadow excitement over the disclosure of corporate earnings.

After reaching an 18-month high in the middle of last week, stocks promptly took a dive on news that actor Fernando Poe Jr. might join the presidential race next year. The impeachment raps filed against Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide aggravated market jitters.

"The market has shifted its focus on the political situation. Investors have turned cautious and are likely to adopt a wait and see attitude," BPI Securities said in a daily report.

"The major markets are waiting for the announcement of actor Fernando Poe Jr.," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities.

On Davide's impeachment, Citiseconline.com analyst Mark Alan Canizares said: "Apparently, there is a perception that this is more of a political move than anything."

Davide had presided over the corruption trial in the Senate of then president Joseph Estrada in December 2000-January 2001, shortly before Estrada was toppled in a military-backed popular revolt.

Most of the legislators who signed the impeachment complaint against Davide are allies of Estrada, who is now detained and on trial for corruption.

The stock market was likewise spooked last week by the volatility of the peso, which slid back to the 55 levels against the dollar, as well as the weakening of the regional markets.

The sharp correction in the giant US and Japan markets likewise weighed down on the performance of most markets in the Asian region, including the Philippines.

"I think the local market will continue to be weak. Everyone's going to wait until Nov. 15, when FPJ is expected to announce his decision to run," Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Roxas said.

Vistan agreed that the market would continue to consolidate and would likely go down this week.

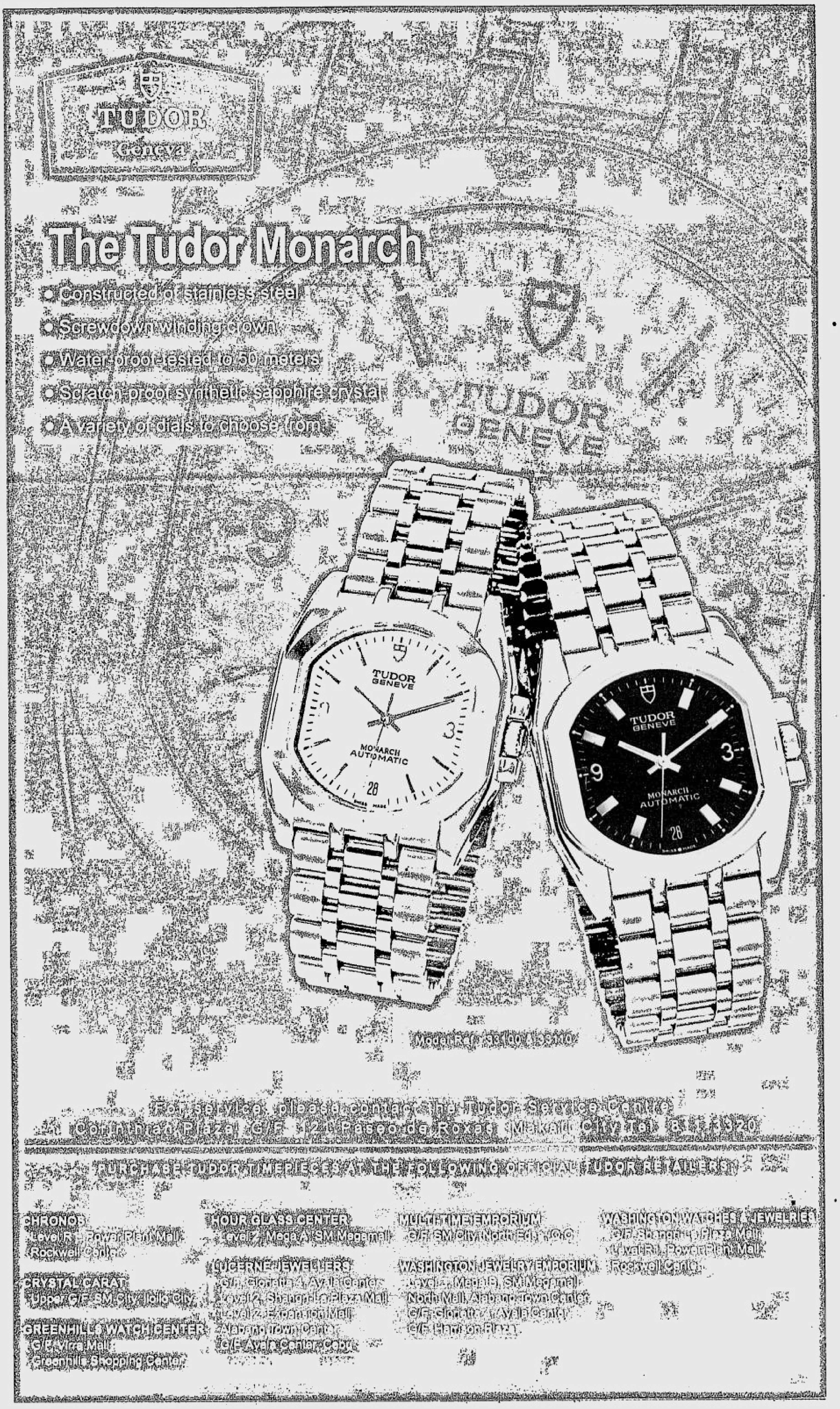
"We don't think we're going to see a big selloff, but there's probably not that much more (room to go up)," he said.

"Some traders have made a lot of money in the market since May. They're looking for an excuse to take profits, and they're getting it. Some investors are already cashing in profits ahead of the 3rd quarter corporate earnings reporting season, as many believe the strong earnings outlook has pushed stocks as high as they can go," Vistan added.

BPI Securities, on the other hand, said reports of a possible FPJ candidacy in next year's presidential elections had proved too unsettling for investors but that third quarter results may provide impetus for heavier buying on select issues.

"We expect investors to eventually dis-

SLOW/B6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Gov't plan to tap bond market for 2004 funding need OKd

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has approved in principle the plan of the national government to raise from the long-term bond market by the end of the year or in early 2004 its remaining $1 billion offshore funding requirement for next year.

"We have discussed the idea and we approve of it in principle. It is better if they raise the money before the end of the year because it is hard to tell what could happen next year. There are too much political noises already," said Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

In another development, the BSP said it would go back to the syndicated loan market to raise $500 million in five-year funds after the May 2004 elections to pay obligations falling due next year.

The BSP has to settle $830 million in maturing loans next year. About $700 million of the total loans were in the form of 5-year loans and bonds issued in 1999 while $130 million formed part of the $585-million syndicated loan in April this year that will mature in one year.

All foreign borrowings, including that of the government, have to be approved by monetary authorities which monitors the country's external debt level.

Buenaventura said pre-funding the requirements of the national government for next year would ease the pressure on the country's external reserves as well as on the peso. It will also allow the government to borrow at more attractive rates, he added.

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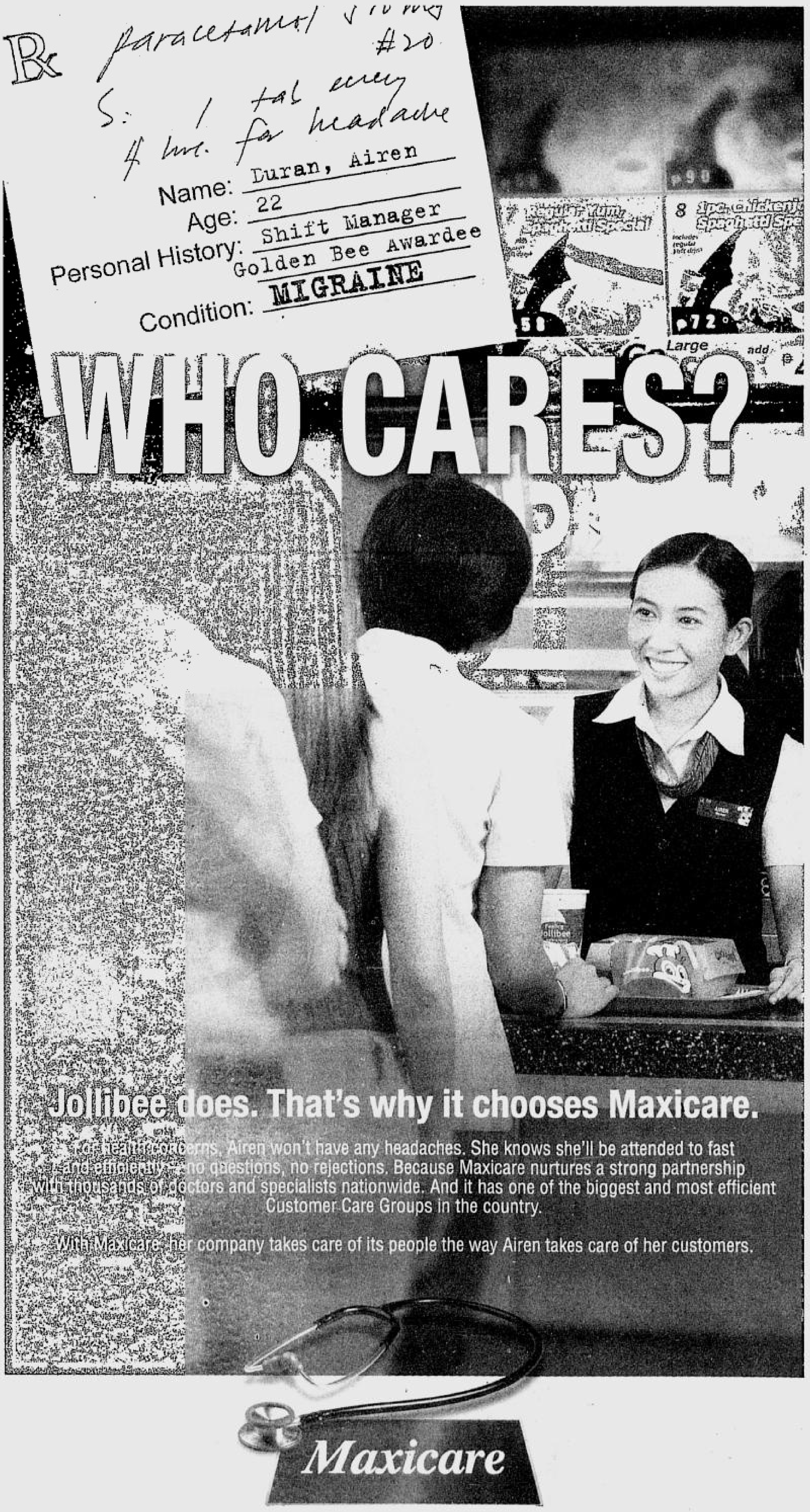

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Trial and terror

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

HOW dare those obnoxious 90 or so congressmen try to speak their mind and talk openly about graft and corruption in the Supreme Court!

That's just not done in a democratic country like ours, which enjoys such a justice system so pure, and it applies whether or not the loathsome congressmen are telling the truth.

It is clear that here nobody should dare even think of accusing anybody in the Supreme Court of having anything to do with graft and corruption.

Under the principle of separation of whites from colors in washing clothes, for one, the Supreme Court is an independent infallible supreme being, *este*, body *pala*.

***

ANY citizen of this republic who still has an active conscience can derive such a simple truth from all the nasty cell phone text messages going around.

The messages all defend Chief Justice Hilario Davide by attacking all those abhorrent congressmen who signed his impeachment in the Senate.

For his part, Davide counters the graft and corruption charges against him, which may lead to a trial, by invoking his right to use mob terror upon his accusers.

Backed by the power of text messaging, Davide thus is able to add political color to the attempt in Congress to try him for something to do with—of all things—money.

***

POLITICS and politics alone should be behind the move in the House of Representative to impeach Davide. This, of course, is according to the camp of Davide himself.

For who should initiate the case against him but a congressman who belongs to the NPC political party of Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. —a.k.a. Danding?

As it happens, the chair and CEO of San Miguel also has 17-year old cases still pending before the Supreme Court.

Let me see, by getting Davide out of the way, Danding can now easily win those long-running cases because now he must contend with only 14 more Supreme Court justices, whom he has riled up by attacking their chief colleague. Is that it?

***

REP. William Fuentabella claims a group of Supreme Court employees have complained to him about their pay. What saddened them was they could see that the Supreme Court was spending a lot of money on "necessities" like luxury cars and mansions.

Being an NPC member, Fuentabella ran to his party for support. About 45 NPC members signed the impeachment of Davide.

But take a look at this, just take one good hard look: About 20 members of the NPC in the House, or more than a third, did NOT sign the impeachment.

***

YET Lakas, the party of this cute administration, had some 16 congressmen among the signatories. And so the whole thing has become a plot hatched by Danding and Gloriaetta against Davide.

I thought Gloriaetta has been accused of being so weak, politically, she could not even control her own party, being a stranger in it and all, in the first place.

If indeed Gloriaetta has had anything to do with it, and she could control her party members, how come only 16 of the Lakas congressmen signed? Why not all of them?

And how come various other bills that can enhance Gloriaetta's popularity are not even getting a second look from her supposed "dummies" in the House?

***

MOREOVER, different political parties—like the Liberal Party, the LDP and the party list representatives—also signed the impeachment to make up 91 or so signatories.

Now who controls those 30-or-so congressmen? Who ordered them to gang up on poor Davide, who has only been protecting the Supreme Court by refusing to explain the money?

Not a word of explanation ever came out of the Supreme Court about the money which started it all, the so-called Judicial Development Fund.

Nobody even knows how much money is in the "special" fund, much less how the money has been used, not even whether or not the Supreme Court chief justice follows the rules.

***

EVERYBODY who files a case in court contributes to the fund. Under the law, a portion of the filing fee must go straight to the fund.

Also under the law, 80 percent of the fund must be used to benefit judges, court employees and such. Only 20 percent could be used for infrastructure in the locality where the money was collected, to start with.

The House insisted that it had the power to look into the use of the fund because it was set by law, not to mention that the House itself appropriates public funds.

The Supreme Court took the position that it had absolute fiscal autonomy, and even the House could not meddle in its money affairs.

***

THUS, to certain congressmen who signed the impeachment, the trial of Davide was a way to resolve the conflict once and for all.

To others, it is an accusation of graft and corruption, and so nobody—much less the Supreme Court chief justice—can invoke autonomy and all that jazz.

Based on COA reports that have reached the House, the Supreme Court does not really handle the JDF as a separate fund because it is co-mingled with other funds.

How do you account for the use of the money then? Didn't the law that created the fund specified its uses? All the congressmen wanted was a little explanation.

***

INSTEAD of an explanation, the Supreme Court issued a circular to the effect that none of the court employees must respond to the queries of congressmen regarding the fund.

To top it all, word reached some congressmen, perhaps through some court employees themselves, about a certain Brian.

The guy supposedly sat in the PBAC of the Supreme Court, the public bidding and awards committee, which decided on huge contracts.

Brian's participation in the PBAC was well documented by congressmen who thought it was a questionable practice inasmuch as the man was related to Davide.

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Siy-niority rule

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE GROUP of Bernadine Siy has managed to secure a temporary restraining order from a Makati judge on Friday against the group of brother George that effectively allowed the Bernadine group entry into their offices at the family-owned Singapore Airlines building in Salcedo Village.

A squad of Makati policemen was seen at the building, allegedly called by the George group, while the Bernadine group tried to serve the TRO.

Happily, the two factions let their business sense prevail over their emotions and the Bernadine group was allowed to enter their padlocked offices and remove their remaining stuff without any untoward incident.

According to the grapevine, the George side, who controls the building, ordered the padlocking of the offices of The Roasters Group—the Bernadine-controlled family corporation that owns the local Kenny Rogers, Seattle's Best, and Popeye's franchises—after noting that the Bernadine group had been spiriting office equipment and boxes of documents, decamping, out of the building.

The George group claims that the Bernadine group owes the family building over six years in unpaid rent; the Bernadine group counters that the George group has not given them their share of income of the building for the past 12 years.

Earlier, George has filed a criminal complaint against certain officers of Jag and Lee, the flagship family company, after he was allegedly prevented from entering the jeans factory in Sucat.

The George side has retained the Villaraza and Angangco law firm, while the Bernadine side has engaged the ACCRA law office.

The sibling rivalry has been bubbling for years now, especially after the untimely death of their father, textile tycoon Ramon Siy.

According to the grapevine, a number of family friends, Chinoys elders, and professional associates including SGV chair Cesar Purisima and Security Bank president Frederick Dy, had tried but failed to patch up the two warring factions or at least allow for an amicable division of the family empire.

As usual in family feuds, the painstaking negotiations broke down because, somewhere along the way, slights and offenses given and received while the siblings were still kids—one sibling's aquarium full of fish was said to had been poisoned by the other sibling—suddenly were dredged up at the negotiating table.

In this fight, the Bernadine group seems to have gained the upper hand, especially with their mother and aunts siding with Bernadine, the eldest of the six Siy siblings. It also helps that Bernadine, who is in her early 40s and is single, still lives with her mother.

Edsa III in judiciary

THE SAME cabal of Erap lawyers is behind the impeach-Davide move launched by the Danding congressmen.

Former Sen. Rene A.V. Saguisag has admitted that he and other Erap lawyers like Alan Paguia and ex-Erap legal counsel Harriet Demetriou had gone through the draft of the impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide before the Nationalist People's Coalition sneaked it through the House.

Saguisag says he is revolted by the constitutional shortcuts taken by Davide and the Edsa II forces in ousting Joseph Estrada, without admitting to the constitutional shortcuts resorted to by the Edsa I forces, wherein Saguisag was a leading partisan in driving Ferdinand Marcos out of Malacañang.

Heard through the grapevine

THE POLITICALLY correct Makati Business Club has banned the INQUIRER from its press conferences and other public functions.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

DBP to tap $70-M term loan

STATE owned Development Bank of the Philippines is borrowing $70 million under a three-year loan arranged by ING Bank N.V., Mizuho financial group and Standard Chartered Bank.

Proceeds of the term loan facility will be used to refinance the government financial institution's maturing and callable obligations and for the bank's general corporate purposes.

A senior DBP official explained that last July, DBP borrowed short-term from the interbank market to cover for the maturing balance of a $175-million euro bond issue worth $70 million. The bond was issued five years ago.

"Now, we are looking at the possibility of having longer term tenor to cover for the short term borrowings," the official said. "What we are looking at is a fixed rate (loan) for three years."

Elena R. Torrijos

Napocor to award $711-M coal deal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A COAL supply contract worth some P711 million will be awarded to Shenhua Coal Trading Co. for the fuel needs of the 1,200-megawatt Sual power plant, a National Power Corp. official said yesterday.

"The approval of the contract would not wait until the next meeting of the board of directors since the contract is for emergency deliveries," the source said.

The contract covers five shipments of coal totaling 325,000 metric tons to be delivered between November and December.

In a bidding held last week, Shenhua's lone rival in the bidding—China Coal (formerly China National Coal Import and Export Co.)—was disqualified for failing to submit a required document.

Shenhua offered $39.80 per metric ton of coal including freight costs for a total of $12.935 million.

Napocor had set a ceiling price of $40 per ton or a budget cap of $13 million for the contract.

Last Friday's bidding was Napocor's fifth for coal supplies this year, tenders for which were called when another Chinese supplier could not meet delivery commitments following an accident in one of its mines.

In July, Chinese supplier Shanxi Coal Import and Export Group Corp. bagged a contract worth about P600 million for five shipments to the Mirant Philippines-operated Sual plant.

Shanxi's commitment was to deliver 325,000 metric tons of fuel between September and October this year.

Napocor has auctioned off seven contracts totaling some P3.6 billion after four biddings rounds in 2003.

Also, Napocor had announced it would need 4.9 million tons of imported coal and 2.2 million tons of local coal in 2004, which woul cost a total of $228.9 million or about P12.6 billion.

The firm's fuel needs were estimated to cost $173.3 million (about P9.5 billion) for imports and P2.9 billion for local supply.

The supplies are intended for coal plants that are run by Napocor and its build-operate-transfer partners in Sual, Pangasinan; Pagbilao, Quezon; Masinloc, Zambales; and Naga, Cebu.

Napocor imports coal for most of its coal plants as locally produced supply do not meet desired quality and standard of fuels needed by all but one of the country's coal plants.

Coal-fired plants represent 40 percent of the country's total electricity generation capacity.

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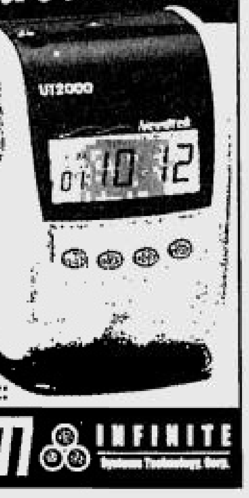

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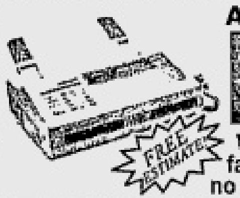

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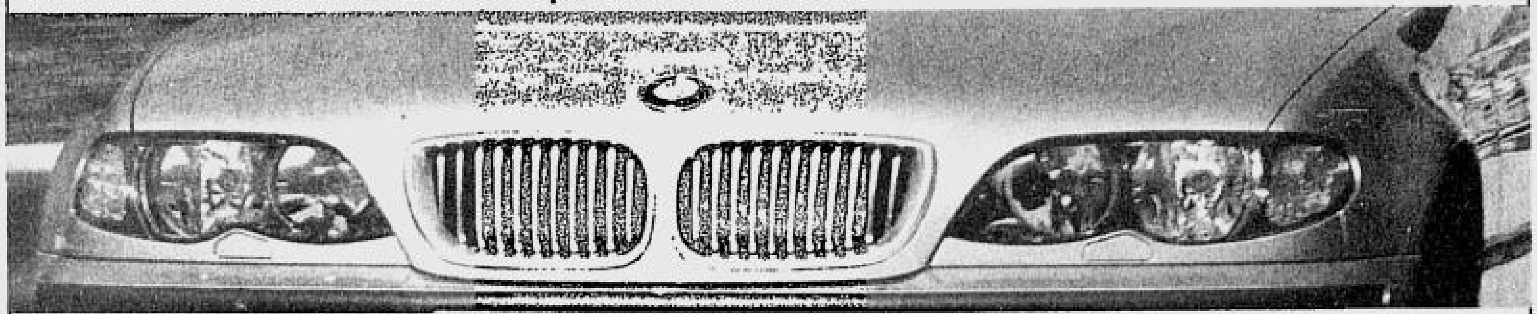

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Meralco submits refund proposal to ERC

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MANILA Electric Co. has asked the Energy Regulatory Commission to allow it to issue financial instruments to cover for P18.6 billion worth of refunds to big customers.

In a three-page document filed with the ERC on Oct. 24, Meralco proposed that the fourth and final phase of its P30-billion refund be paid either through financial instruments or fixed credit to bills, depending on the gross refund amount.

Meralco said the financial instrument would provide the customers the flexibility to liquidate their "refund coupons" whenever they wanted.

The utility added that such mode would at the same time give Meralco the time to recover from its cash flow difficulty and improve its credit ratings.

The processing of the refund through financial instruments would be completed by June 2004, it said.

Further, Meralco said the nature, yield and other relevant terms and conditions of the instrument were still being formulated by a committee formed for that purpose.

The firm said the committee was in consultation with various business groups concerned, and agencies such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Department of Finance and Philippine Stock Exchange.

If the proposal is approved, Meralco said industrial and commercial customers with active accounts—and entitled to the refund—would be able to file their claims starting July 2005.

The processing of Phase IV refund claims with active accounts would take about five years up to the second quarter of 2010.

At the same time, big customers entitled to refunds but had terminated their accounts with Meralco could start filing claims by March 2010.

In an interview early this month, Meralco president Jesus Francisco explained that the instrument could make the process of refunding large customers as fast as possible.

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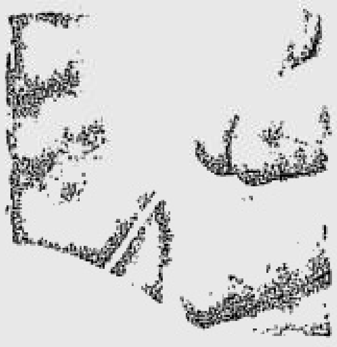

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Through the initiative of ABS-CBN owner Eugenio Lopez Jr., the Procter-and-Gamble-sponsored *Tawag ng Tanghalan*, duplicated its success in radio when it crossed over to television in 1958. It was the country's first televised amateur singing contest, breeding stars out of Diomedes Maturan, Edgar Mortiz and the phenomenal Nora Aunor.

In the 60's, *An Evening with Pilita* was the very first Filipino show to be recorded on tape. The combined efforts and talent of its star, Pilita Corrales and director Mitos Villareal made it one of the most popular and awarded shows in TV history.

Meanwhile, ABS-CBN gave the country its first taste of a regular live color program through *Sunday Sweet Sunday* in 1968. The noontime musical show aired excerpts from operettas and Broadway musicals sang by its stars Fides Cuyugan-Asencio and Jimmy Melendez.

After five decades of television, ABS-CBN's passion for dynamism and excellence lives on. Its musical and variety programs, as well as station-produced specials, remain industry benchmarks as they continue to bring in both ratings and awards. Unafraid to break new ground and redefine the industry, ABS-CBN relentlessly reinvents itself to bring world-class entertainment to every Filipino home.

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Higher tariff on rubber sought

By Michelle V. Remo

LOCAL rubber producers have asked the government to increase the tariffs on imported rubber products to a minimum of 10 percent and a maximum of 30 percent, saying the low tariff environment had caused significant harm to the local rubber industry.

In a letter to the Department of Trade and Industry and the Tariff Commission, Philippine Rubber Industries Association Inc. cited the products that needed higher tariff shield.

The group sought 10 to 15-percent tariff on products currently slapped 3-percent and 5-percent duty, including plates, sheets and strip, hose, conveyor or transmission belts, inner tubes (for rubbers of cars and buses), nipples of baby feeding bottles, surgical gloves, floor coverings and mats, and vehicle parts.

Products currently slapped a tariff of 10 percent, such as pneumatic tires and footwear, should be imposed a much higher tariff of 25 percent to 30 percent, it said.

The industry's request for additional tariff protection came at a time when the Tariff Commission was undertaking a review of the country's tariff structure for possible realignment. The Tariff Commission is set to release the results of the review before the end of the year.

The Tariff Commission had decided to review the tariff structure after complaints of the worsening business climate from various industries swamped the DTI.

The Federation of Philippine Industries earlier said many companies from different industries were forced to close shop because they were made to prematurely face tough foreign competition.

While the country's average bound tariff under the WTO was set at 26 percent, the average applied tariff rate was only 6 percent.

FPI secretary general Joseph Francia earlier said local industries would agree to the lowering of tariffs only if other factors affecting business, such as electricity cost and peso-dollar exchange rate, would be made more favorable.

Meralco admits some projects not OKd by ERC

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DISTRIBUTION giant Manila Electric Co. admitted to the Philippine Stock Exchange that it had incurred capital expenses without the approval of the industry regulators.

Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Manuel Sanchez said last week that the ERC was investigating Meralco and 13 other utilities for possible unauthorized projects.

In a circular for brokers dated Oct. 24, PSE senior vice president Jose G. Cervantes quoted Meralco as saying it had "experienced certain failures ... to secure prior ERC approval due to the urgency of the need (for the projects)."

Meralco further said: "We have taken steps to address this and ensure that, henceforth, we will be compliant with the requirements."

In an interview last Tuesday, Sanchez explained that capital expenses were part of a utility's cost of doing business, which could be recovered from customers.

Capital expenses needed to be regulated so that utilities would not incur unnecessary costs and burden consumers, Sanchez said.

The official also said the erring power firms faced fines of between P50,000 and P50 million if found violating regulations.

The other utilities under probe, according to ERC records, are Angeles Electric Co., Cabanatuan Electric Corp., Cotabato Light and Power Co., Cagayan Electric Power & Light Co., Dagupan Electric Corp., Ibaan Electric and Engineering Corp., Iligan Light Power Inc., La Union Electric Co., Manson's Corp., Mactan Electric Co., Panay Electric Co., San Fernando Electric Light and Power Co. and Tarlac Electric Co. Inc.

Commonwealth Act 146 requires electric distribution utilities to seek the approval of regulators before they could build, operate or maintain new facilities and services, or expand existing facilities.

In an earlier interview, a government source said Meralco undertook 279 electric capital projects between 1994 and 2000 without the commission's approval.

Estimates show that these projects cost a total of about P8 billion.

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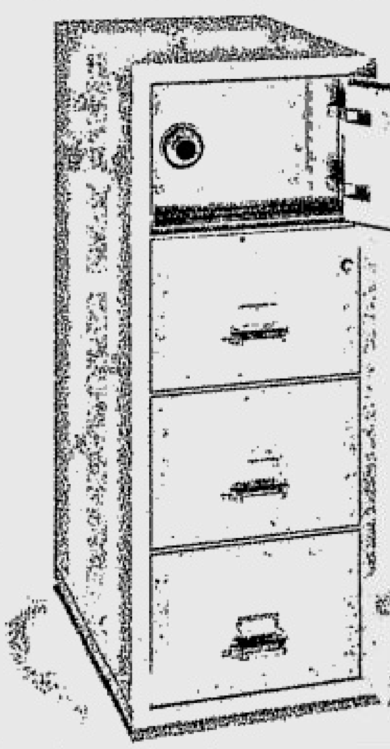
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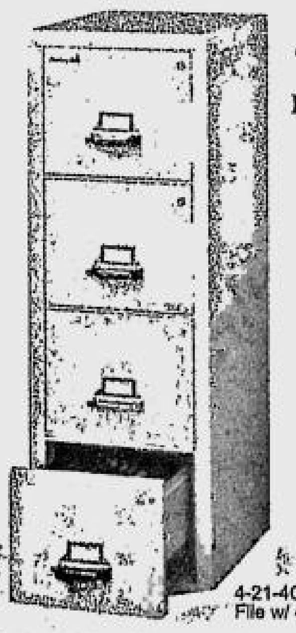
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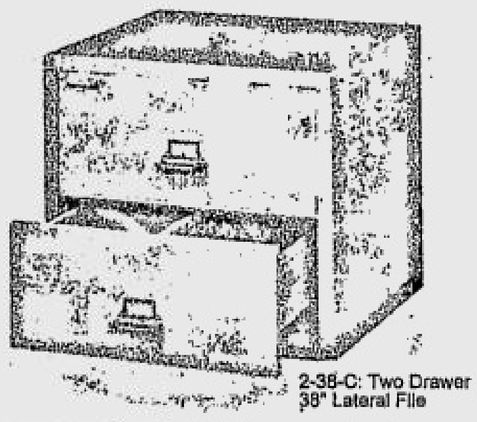
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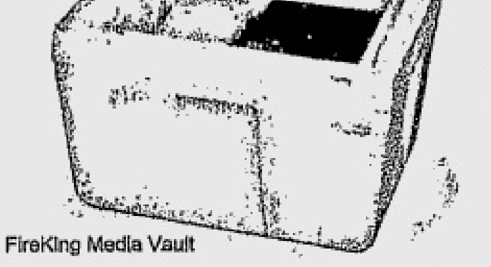
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Asean5 minus 1?

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Cielito F. Habito

LEAFING through the Thai English daily newspaper The Nation in my flight back to Manila from Bangkok last Friday, a prominent story on the Asean Common Market with the title "Go easy, says Manila envoy" caught my attention—and quickly got me both depressed and angry.

Out of the league

The article quoted the Philippine Ambassador to Bangkok as stating that "a common market would be good for the region, but … should begin with only those countries that are ready." He was further quoted as saying that the process could be launched by "capable" countries such as Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, but it would take until 2020 to bring aboard the remaining Asean members."

The article left me depressed because here was our top government official in Thailand making a direct admission that our country was not "capable," and just like Asean newcomers Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar, we are so weak as to need extra time to be part of even the launching of an Asean Common Market. He was practically telling the world that we have effectively dropped out of the league of our companions in the group commonly known as Asean5. The term is used to denote the five original and therefore most mature and economically strongest members of the 10-member Asean.

How not to project ourselves

The article also left me angry because the statements all too clearly reflected the very lack of self-esteem and confidence in ourselves that has set us back behind our neighbors for far too long. It is bad enough that we are only attracting one-tenth of the level of foreign investments that our erstwhile twin economy Thailand is now attracting. Recently, for example, we were making such a big deal about Ford's pledge of a $50-million investment in a new factory—and yet these are crumbs compared to the $500 million they have also just committed to Thailand. But when our top officials go around telling the world we are weak and incapable, how can we expect to be taken seriously by the investment community? How can we even get our own domestic investors to keep faith in our own economy rather than bring their capital abroad?

Bullish Thailand, sheepish Philippines

Another article that caught my interest dealt on how Thailand and Singapore were leading the way of the Asean in getting into bolder initiatives to strengthen economic integration in the region. At the same time, the two have also been going ahead with bilateral free trade deals with major partners outside the group. Singapore has just signed a free trade agreement with the United States. Thailand has just signed a similar agreement with India, and is seriously studying following the example of Singapore with the US. The aggressiveness of Thailand in particular is striking, and is winning admiration from the investment community, tangibly manifested in even greater investment stakes being placed with them. In contrast, we are actually retreating on some of our commitments to the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) itself.

Who's afraid of a common market?

For all the claims that we are too incapable to join an Asean common market, our officials don't seem to realize that we actually stand to benefit from it even more than our neighbors. A common market is a higher level of economic integration beyond a free trade area, wherein members simply remove tariffs on each other's products while keeping their distinct tariff structures vis-à-vis non-members. With a common market, members also adopt a uniform tariff scheme applied to non-members, and permit movement among themselves of labor and capital.

I don't see why we should worry about harmonizing our tariff rates on non-member economies. The critics of our supposedly "too aggressive" trade liberalization in the 1990s allege that our neighbors actually kept their import tariffs higher than ours. (The claim is not even true. While it may seem so if one looks at a simple average of tariff rates, we remain more protective based on trade-weighted averages). In effect, they are saying that lowering our tariffs is all right if our neighbors did not keep theirs higher than ours. But this is exactly what a common market achieves, where we would all have uniform external tariffs.

There should be even less reason to worry about freer movement of labor and capital within Asean. As a labor exporting country, freer access by our workers to opportunities in our more dynamic neighbors can only work to our advantage. So will freer capital mobility, for it will make it easier for us to get more job-generating investments from our more affluent neighbors. At the same time, it would be easier for Filipino capital to seek more lucrative ventures in our neighboring economies.

Rather than proclaiming our own weakness, we should be extolling our strengths and potentials to the external audience. This was how President Ramos successfully sold our economy to the international community in the 1990s. Now we have Cabinet members and ambassadors telling the world "No, we can't" rather than proclaim "Yes, we can!" (or as President Ramos used to shout all the time, "*Kaya natin ito!*")—and we wonder why the massive investments entering our region are largely passing us by.

(Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu)

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A	1,300,000	1,100,000
Baguio Country Club	750,000	650,000
Canyon Woods	160,000	100,000
Capitol Hills	170,000	150,000
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	70,000/Pls. Call	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	160,000
Club Filipino	170,000	140,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	300,000/450,000**	260,000
Eastridge	100,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/220,000**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	150,000/220,000*/250,000**	190,000**
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	10,700,000/12,000,000*	11,200,000*
Manila Polo	2,300,000	2,100,000
Manila Yacht Club	350,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	430,000/500,000*	500,000*
Metropolitan Club	100,000	-
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	150,000/330,000*	100,000/250,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	230,000	-
Phil. Columbian	60,000	-
Puerto Azul A/B	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	-	400,000
Quezon City Sports Club A	-	165,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	140,000/165,000*/380,000**	100,000
Rockwell Leisure Club	350,000	-
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	70,000/Pls. Call*	-
Spa & Lodge	-	580,000
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,300,000/1,650,000*	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club (Corp.)	150,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	370,000	340,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	800,000	700,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	650,000
Tal Filipinas A	-	130,000
Valley Golf & CC	300,000	250,000

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GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of October 27, 2003

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,150,000	1,300,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	680,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	60,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	60,000	-
Camp John Hay	200,000	280,000
Canlubang	375,000	500,000
Canyonwoods		150,000
Capitol Hills	160,000	180,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	Please Call
Celebrity Sports Club	160,000	200,000
Club Filipino	130,000	175,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Fontana "A"		70,000
Forest Hills "A"	175,000	190,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	230,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	-
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	10,300,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	450,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	450,000
Metropolitan Club "A"		100,000
Mimosa (Individual)	115,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	250,000	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	25,000	35,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	158,000	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	-	500,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	140,000	200,000
Rockwell	-	360,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	80,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	180,000
Spa & Lodge	600,000	700,000
Sta. Elena "A"	Please Call	1,300,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	380,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	830,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	700,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	120,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	250,000
Valley Golf	270,000	330,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,000,000	7,100,000

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ALABANG "B"	1.450M	QC SPORTS "A"	200K	FOREST HILLS "A"	150K
BAGUIO CC	660K	RIVIERA G & CC "A"	165K	MLA POLO	2.125M
CANYON WOODS	Call now	ROCKWELL	350K	ORCHARD "A"	Call now
CELEBRITY (IND)	170K	S WOODS "A"	470K	RIVIERA CC	Call now
CC@ TAGAYTAY	380K	STA. ELENA "A"	1.4M	S WOODS "B"	500K
EAGLE RIDGE "B"	Call now	SUBIC BAY YACHT	120K	STA. ELENA "B"	1.3M
FOREST HILLS "A"	200K	TAG MIDLANDS	750K	TAG HLANDS	Call now
MLA POLO	2.15M	VALLEY GOLF	300K	TAG MIDLANDS	[illegible]

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CANLUBANG	50,000	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	35,000
MIMOSA GOLF & CC	10,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	30,000
RIVIERA GCC	10,000	WACK WACK	[illegible]

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ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	-	1 150M
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CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB "B"	60K	-
CAMP JOHN HAY		200K
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	180K	150K
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY		335K
EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	80K	
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"		300K
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "C"		350K
EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	85K	
FOREST HILLS GOLF CLUB "A"	175K	
FONTANA "D"	50K	
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250K	220K
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	please call	please call
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)		please call
MANILA POLO CLUB		2 3M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	530K	500K
MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB "C"		35K
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	please call	
PUNTA FUEGO		400K
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200K	175K
RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	120K	
SHERWOOD HILLS "B"		100K
SPLENDIDO	300K	
SPA & LODGE		575K
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "B"		1 3M
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB		800K
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS		660K
VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	135K	
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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Camp John Hay	-	250,000
Orchard "C"	-	280,000
Celebrity Sports	170,000	-
Evercrest	-	85,000
EastRidge	50,000	-
Forest Hills(class A)	170,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	240,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)	9,000,000	-
Manila Golf (Corp.)	10,000,000	-
Manila Polo	2,200,000	-
Manila Yacht	-	450,000
Mimosa	-	100,000
Montemar (Ind.)	-	35,000
Philippine Columbian	90,000	-
Punta Fuego	500,000	850,000
Quezon City Sports Club	165,000	-
Riviera	-	270.00
Riviera (Corporate)		230,000
Royale Tagaytay (Corporate)	-	150,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	800,000
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	380,000
Tagaytay Highlands SPA	780,000	-
Valley Golf	250,000	270,000
Valle Verde((Indv.)	120,000	Pls. Call
Valle Verde (Corp.)	200,000	-
Wack Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	7,000,000

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 24, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	20,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	44.5	44	44.5	1,167,500
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	3,040
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	19	19	19	19	10,000
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35	35.5	35	35	70,000
Export And Ind. Bank Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	720,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27	26.5	26.5	393,000
Philippine National Bank	28	28	27.5	27.5	45,000
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	28	28	12,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1575	1575	1570	1570	250
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	182,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1320	1325	1320	1320	1,240
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	28.5	28.5	27.5	28.5	8,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	2,150,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	740	745	740	745	41,650
Ipeople Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	20,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.046	0.044	0.045	9,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	101,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.82	4,570,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	150,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	740	750	740	740	95,460
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	2,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.25	13.25	288,600
Manila Electric Co. B	20.75	20.75	19.75	19.75	1,102,000
Petron Corp.	2.02	2.02	1.98	2	4,419,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.9	1.9	40,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.15	1,010,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	160,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	5,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	150,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	148,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28	28.5	28	28.5	46,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	17	16.75	17	166,700
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	56.5	56	56.5	20,100
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.5	63	20,400
Universal Robina Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	22,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.9	5	4.9	5	4,025,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	220,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	710,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	15,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.56	0.56	10,140,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	3,800,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	410,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	1,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.04	1.04	520,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.75	18	17.5	18	999,400
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.22	0.235	0.22	0.235	450,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,200,000
Ionics Inc.	1.62	1.64	1.6	1.6	225,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.02	1.04	4,792,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	3,260,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	430,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	40,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	30,000
Solid Group Inc	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0775	0.08	0.075	0.075	1,900,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	3,100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	1,830,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	380,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	420,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	29	29	28.5	29	973,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.5	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	3,200
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	1,367,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.235	0.225	0.225	4,850,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	1,070,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.08	1.08	16,925,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1,310,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	2,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7	6.9	7	5,576,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	1,730,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	5,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.008	0.008	0.0075	0.0075	22,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	92,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	2,380,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	27,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	9,000,000

CURRENCIES

October 26, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.848320326	1.000000	55.241000
Japan	Yen	0.007739	0.009123	0.504000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.437479	1.694500	93.605900
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109418	0.128982	7.125100
Switzerland	Franc	0.645749	0.761209	42.049900
Canada	Dollar	0.648514	0.764468	42.230000
Singapore	Dollar	0.486562	0.573559	31.684000
Australia	Dollar	0.594062	0.700280	38.684200
Bahrain	Dinar	2.250306	2.652661	146.535600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226213	0.266660	14.730600
Brunei	Dollar	0.485171	0.571919	31.593400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0001	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021315	0.025126	1.388000
UAE	Dirham	0.23098	0.272279	15.041000
Euro	Euro	1	1.178800	65.118100
Argentina	Peso	0.298705	0.352113	19.451100
Brazil	REAL	0.296098	0.349040	19.281300
Denmark	Kroner	0.134516	0.158567	8.759400
India	Rupee	0.01876	0.022114	1.221600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223272	0.263193	14.539000
Mexico	New Peso	0.076035	0.089630	4.951300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.5179	0.610501	33.724700
Norway	Kroner	0.121218	0.142892	7.893500
Korea	Won	0.000713	0.000841	0.046500
Syria	Pound	0.020199	0.023810	1.315300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025053	0.029533	1.631400

Slow trading week . . .

From page B1

count this latest political development; bargain hunting is expected to resurface, particularly with the test of index supports - immediate at 1,360, then at 1330. However, lingering concerns may limit gains, with the market likely to lapse back into consolidation and range trading," it said. The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 3.93 points, or 0.28 percent over the week to settle at 1,363.40 points on Friday.

Average daily turnover rose to 520.704 million shares compared with 436.54 million shares valued at P742 million last week.

Doris C. Dumlao, with a report from AFP.

Philam Plans projects higher profits

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILAM Plans Inc., the country's leading pre-need company, sees better profits this year than last year's level despite lower sales in the first eight months compared with that in the same period last year.

In a recent press briefing, Philam Plans president and chief executive Jesus Hofilena said the company, however, might achieve less than its target profit for this year of P400 million to P500 million.

"This year has been a challenging year," Hofilena said.

The company's sales in the first eight months of this year in terms of gross contract price amounted to P4.3 billion, lower than the P4.9 billion recorded last year.

Company officials, however, said that September sales were so good that it pushed the total for the first nine months ahead of last year's comparative level.

Industry-wide, sales of pre-need firms have been sluggish, particularly that of pension and education plans which have seen substantial sales declines.

Hofilena also warned that the company's profits this year might be reduced as the Securities and Exchange Commission might insist on an interpretation of new pre-need rules that would require pre-need companies to set aside additional reserves.

To further boost sales, Hofilena said Philam Plans would expand in the provinces where its competitors had been seeing sales growth.

The company, which has 70 offices nationwide and the largest market share in pre-need plans, aims to put up branches in the Visayas and Mindanao regions, particularly Calibo, Dumaguete, Ormoc and Surigao.

Meanwhile, Philam Plan officials also said that the company's total trust fund level amounted to P8.5 billion as of August this year, more than P2 billion than the P6.367 billion level recorded at the end of 2002.

The trust fund is largely invested in government securities with real estate and stock investments making up only 1.8 percent and 2.7 percent of the total fund as of the 2002 period.

Megaworld eyes 25% stake in Fort Boni developer

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY developer Megaworld Corp. has expressed interest in acquiring a 25 percent stake in Global City developer Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., from the state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority.

"We are studying it. It's interesting," Megaworld investor relations officer Luke Tan told the INQUIRER.

"We are waiting for more details, guidelines, terms, price, etc.," Tan added.

Next to the Ayala-Campos group, which bought a 55 percent stake in FBDC by buying out the shares of Metro Pacific Corp. in consortium leader Bonifacio Land Co., Megaworld has the biggest interest in the former Fort Bonifacio military camp.

Megaworld's first venture in Fort Bonifacio is Forbeswoods Heights—a six cluster residential development in joint venture with businessman Carlos Rufino's Bonifacio West Development Corp.

Its latest project is a 50-50 joint venture with Alliance Global Inc. for the development of the 25-hectare Lawton Parkway, just outside the 150-hectare property under FBDC.

BCDA earlier planned to sell its entire 45 percent stake in FBDC to the private sector, but later trimmed the equity stake on the auction block to 25 percent.

BCDA plans to sell its remaining 20 percent stake in FBDC when the property market improves.

The 25 percent stake for sale, however, would still give the buyer considerable influence in the consortium since the majority stake of 55 percent is equally owned by Ayala Land Inc. and the Campos group's Greenfield Development Corp.

BCDA has started the search for a financial advisor in preparation for the privatization of the remaining stake in FBDC. The state agency hopes to generate up to ₱7 billion from the sale of its stake in the company.

Dole to increase fruit exports

By Christine A. Gaylican

DAVAO CITY—Dole Asia Ltd. plans to increase its exports of Philippine fresh solo papayas and mangoes to New Zealand, which would bring in additional earnings of between $10 million and $15 million.

This was disclosed by Dole vice president for fresh sourcing John L. Casazza at the sidelines of the two-day Mindanao Food Congress.

Casazza said in the interview that Dole planned to go back to its original export levels as it puts one of its vapor-heat treatment facilities back into production.

Dole Asia's VHT facility broke down in October last year, thus, limiting its export volume to key markets such as Japan and New Zealand.

Quarantine officials from the Bureau of Plant Industry barred Dole from shipping out produce to Japan due to complaints that a shipment of fruits to Japan was infested with fruit flies.

"We are yet to reach 100 percent of what we used to export, but this will build over time," Casazza explained.

The Philippines is one of the top two exporters of solo papayas and mangoes to Auckland and Japan.

"Before this happened we cornered 55 percent of the market in the export of these fresh fruits. This dropped to 23 percent following the suspension. But it is interesting to note that our competitor, Hawaii, did not expand its production to capture our lost market share. We want to get that share back," Casazza said.

Dole Asia, a subsidiary of the Florida-based American firm also exports fresh solo papayas, mangoes, Cavendish bananas, pineapples and asparagus to Hong Kong and South Korea. It plans to soon penetrate Shanghai, China.

Casazza said that Mindanao has a good chance of capturing an even bigger slice of the export market, but said that it has to hurdle the major challenge of producing quality fruits at lower costs.

WTO: What Now?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE COLLAPSE of the World Trade Organization talks in Cancun was claimed as a victory by the poor nations. The rich nations turned up their noses and said it would be the poor nations that would suffer. What now?

Let's start from the beginning. After World War II, the Allies, magnanimous in victory, set out to establish a "New World Order" to avoid future world wars. In the field of politics, The United Nations came into being. In international finance, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund opened for business.

In international trade—the buying and selling of goods—the General Agreement for Tariffs and Trade was hammered out. In 1946 in London, 21 founding nations (the Philippines included) signed the initial agreement covering about 20 percent of world trade. A gigantic, worldwide *palengke* was set up.

Since then, various negotiations—called rounds—were conducted to expand GATT's scope. The eighth round and the largest ever, started in Punta del Este in Uruguay in 1986, hence the name Uruguay Round.

In April 1994, representatives of 108 nations signed the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

The agreement was a contract. The replacing Final Act was a treaty, which had to be ratified by the Philippine Senate.

The two biggest decisions at the Uruguay Round were creating the World Trade Organization to implement the rules of trade and expanding the scope of the rules to include financial services (such as insurance), intellectual properties, labor and agricultural produce.

From the very start, the basic idea was to promote international trade by embarking on a long-term program of trade liberalization (a new buzzword) by cutting tariffs, quotas and subsidies.

Trade liberalization stems from the economic principle that goes something like this: by erasing trade barriers, consumer prices go down and more people can afford to buy. As more people buy, industries gear up to meet the rising demand. All this leads to more investments, more jobs and higher incomes. A rising tide raises all boats.

Under the Uruguay round, the rich countries committed to cut their agricultural price support programs (meaning subsidies) by 20 percent by 2000. At Cancun, the poor nations wanted subsidies reduced further. To the Philippines, this is crucial because by 2005 we will have to open our market to foreign rice and corn, which are heavily subsidized in the US.

The subsidy allows the American, European and Japanese farmer to export even at a loss. The subsidy totals $300 billion a year. Under these conditions, there is no way the poor nations can compete.

The poor nations also wanted the rich nations to open up their markets to agricultural produce from poor nations by doing away with non-tariff barriers such as inspections and red tape.

But, at Cancun, the rich nations did not want to be rushed. They just wanted to talk, and talk some more. Thus the round collapsed.

As an insurance broker, I am, by definition, a free marketer. I work best in the broad, sunlit uplands of an open and free market, where buyers and sellers, with little or no government inference, strike up mutually beneficial deals.

But competing in the world market against rice and corn heavily subsidized by the US federal government is like playing poker against someone with unlimited funds and four aces up his sleeve. The best thing to do is cash in your chips and walk away.

As a consumer, I don't really mind buying imported California rice partly paid for by the American taxpayer, thank you very much. But, over the long haul, what will happen to my relatives and friends in Naga City if they can no longer sell their rice and corn at a profit even at the neighborhood *palengke*?

The rich nations have their own problems. They cannot sell their agricultural produce at home and abroad without heavy government subsidies. That is an ever-growing monstrous problem rich nations will have to face up to sooner or later. I suspect the rich nations desperately want to make a deal—sooner than later.

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November 8, 14 and 15, 2003
(Saturday, Friday and Saturday)

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Saturday, November 8
Macroeconomic variables and credit analysis
Industry analysis and prospects of selected industries

Module 2
Friday and Saturday, November 14 and 15
Financial and non-financial factors in credit analysis
Loan pricing issues
Property appraisal
Credit management and loan/client monitoring

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November 21 and 22, 2003
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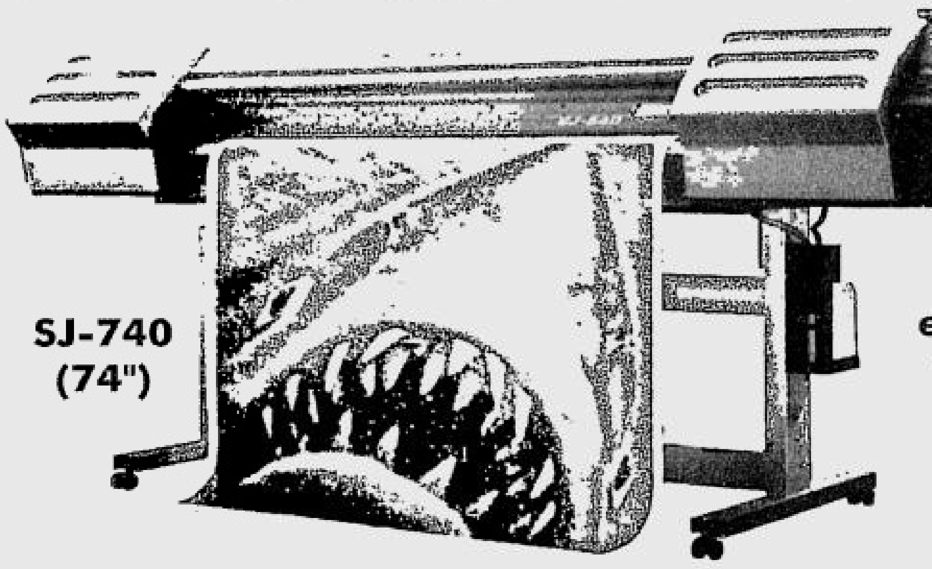

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GIR seen down to $15B by end 2003

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said the country's gross international reserves would drop to about $15 billion by the end of the year despite the inflow from the recent $1.05-billion bond issue of the national government.

Without the inflow from the bond issue last Oct.17, the external reserves would be lower at $14 billion by year-end. As of September, the GIR was at $16.16 billion, according to the BSP.

"It could be higher than $15 billion but the conservative year-end outlook already took into account the proceeds of the recent bond issue," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the external reserves could exceed $16 billion if the government would push through with its plan to go back to the global bond market by December to raise another $1 billion.

With the potential inflow, the GIR by yearend could match the end-2002 level of $16.17 billion.

The GIR as computed by the central bank includes about $2 billion in funds used as collateral to short-term loans. Using the more conservative computation of the International Monetary Fund, deducting the collateral from the total would bring down the reserves to only about $14 billion.

Aside from including in the computation the funds used as collateral, foreign borrowings especially of the government and the BSP propped up the external reserves to a level that even the central bank had admitted to be artificial. This is because loan proceeds are only deposited in the vaults temporarily.

The Philippines has one of the lowest level of external reserves in Asia considering that Thailand has about three times more, South Korea has about $100 billion and Japan even

GIR/ B8

Legacy Plans gets into mutual fund business

LEGACY Consolidated Plans Inc., has diversified into the mutual fund business by acquiring a 41-percent stake in Emergent Asset Management Inc.

Organized in 1989 mainly as a pre-need firm, Legacy earlier ventured into banking and credit card businesses through subsidiaries.

With its innovative products and services catering to the growing demand for short-term investments, Legacy saw in the field of mutual funds an opportunity where investment can steadily grow over time and yet convertible to cash anytime.

Emergent Asset Management is the fund manager of Emergent Fund Inc. which has been dormant for several years because of lack of interest in mutual funds, absence of infrastructure and capital to generate investments.

Legacy's entry in the mutual fund business is expected to give Emergent Asset Management the much-needed shot in the arm in reviving its moribund operation.

During the Emergent Fund stockholders meeting last Oct. 23, the stockholders approved the change in investment objective and policy of the firm.

The firm will now concentrate investment of its funds in government securities since fixed-income securities is guaranteed by the government which eliminates the risk of losses.

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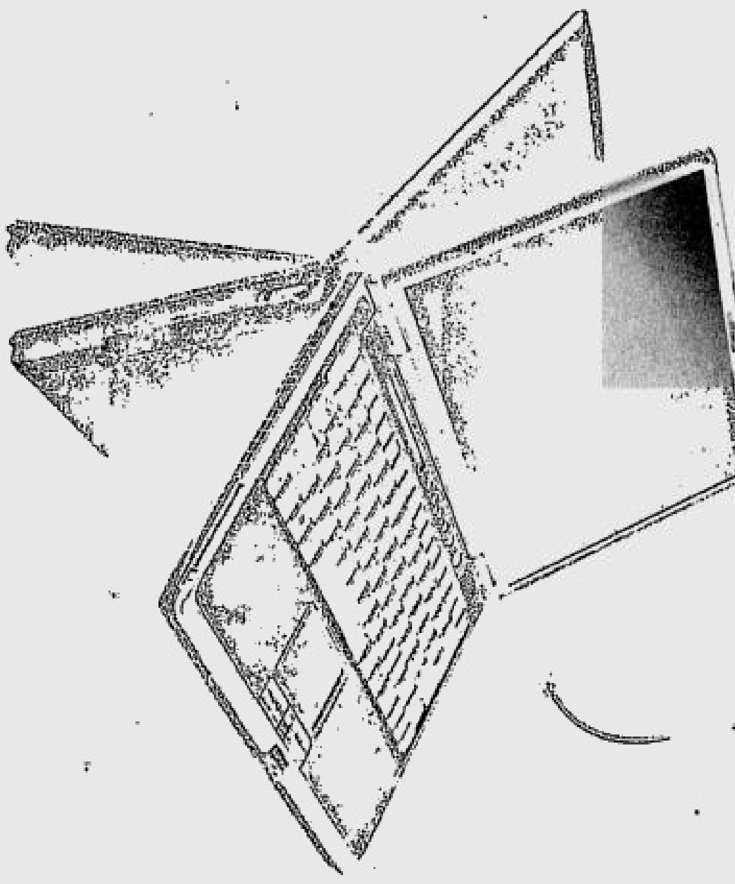

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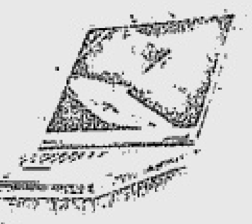

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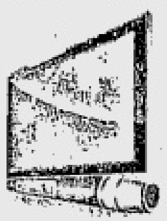

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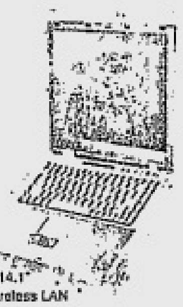

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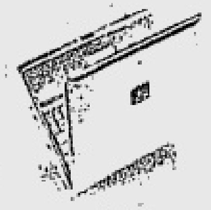

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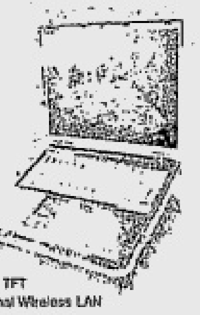

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Napocor to give 15 firms discount of 50¢ per kWh

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STATE-RUN National Power Corp. has granted 15 more customers a discount of 50 centavos per kilowatt-hour under its Special Program to Enhance Electricity Demand.

According to Napocor's marketing and commercial relations department, the power firm had pre-qualified more customers for Phase I of Speed to encourage these bulk consumers to increase their electricity purchases by offering discounts.

The new beneficiaries of Speed include Tarlac Electric Inc., Angeles Electric Corp, Cabanatuan Electric Corp., Dagupan Electric Corp., La Union Electric Cooperative, Visayan Electric Co., Cebu Electric Cooperative, Cagayan Electric Power & Light Co. and San Fernando Electric Light & Power.

Napocor also pre-qualified power-intensive industrial firms for the discount scheme.

These include General Milling Corp., Tip Estates Corp., United Coconut Chemicals, Goodfound Cement Corp., Gapan Ice and Cold Storage, and Philippine Export Processing Zone in Baguio City which houses Texas Instruments and Moog Controls.

The pre-qualification of the 15 electric cooperatives came after Napocor signed a Speed agreement with Manila Electric Co., the country's largest private electric utility, last April.

Meralco's customers that qualify under the program would get a total discount of 72 centavos per kWh since the National Transmission Corp. agreed to give a separate discount of 10 centavos per kWh aside from Meralco's 12 centavos per kWh.

GIR seen down to $15B by end 2003

From page B0

twice that amount. During the Asian crisis, the country's GIR dropped to single-digit levels.

A healthy level of foreign exchange reserves assures the country's trading partners that it could pay its debts and importation. It is thus an important factor in boosting investor and creditors' confidence in the country.

Consisting mainly of US dollars, the GIR is the total foreign currency holdings of the central bank including gold and special drawing rights, the currency used by the International Monetary Fund.

The central bank uses its dollar reserves to intervene in the market and strengthen the peso. The BSP also extends loans to banks, using the GIR.

Notice To The Public

Notice is hereby served to the general public and investing principals that the Makati RTC Br. 59, in its order dated July 31, 2002 has effected and enforced the WRIT of ATTACHMENT on the entire PAMANA ISLAND (in Subic Bay), titled to Pamana Island Resort Hotel and Marina Club, Inc. in favor of Primelink Properties and Developement Corporation (PLPDC) who is acting for and behalf of protecting its own interest and that of other investors.

The investing public is enjoined to honor and uphold the above cited court order.

From: PLPDC
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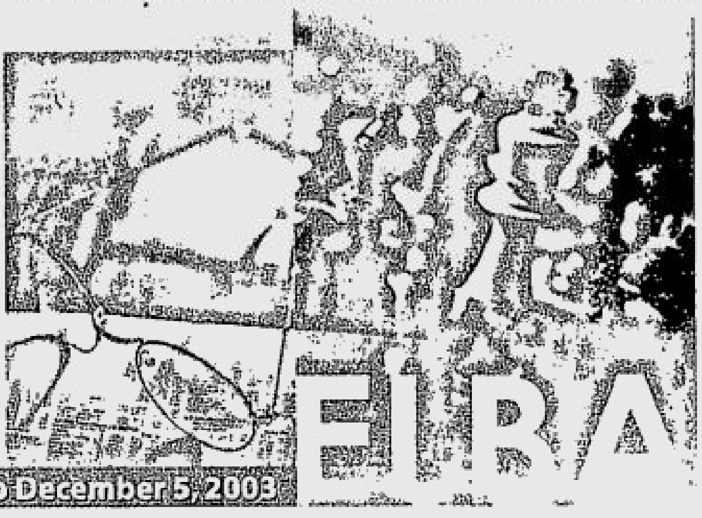

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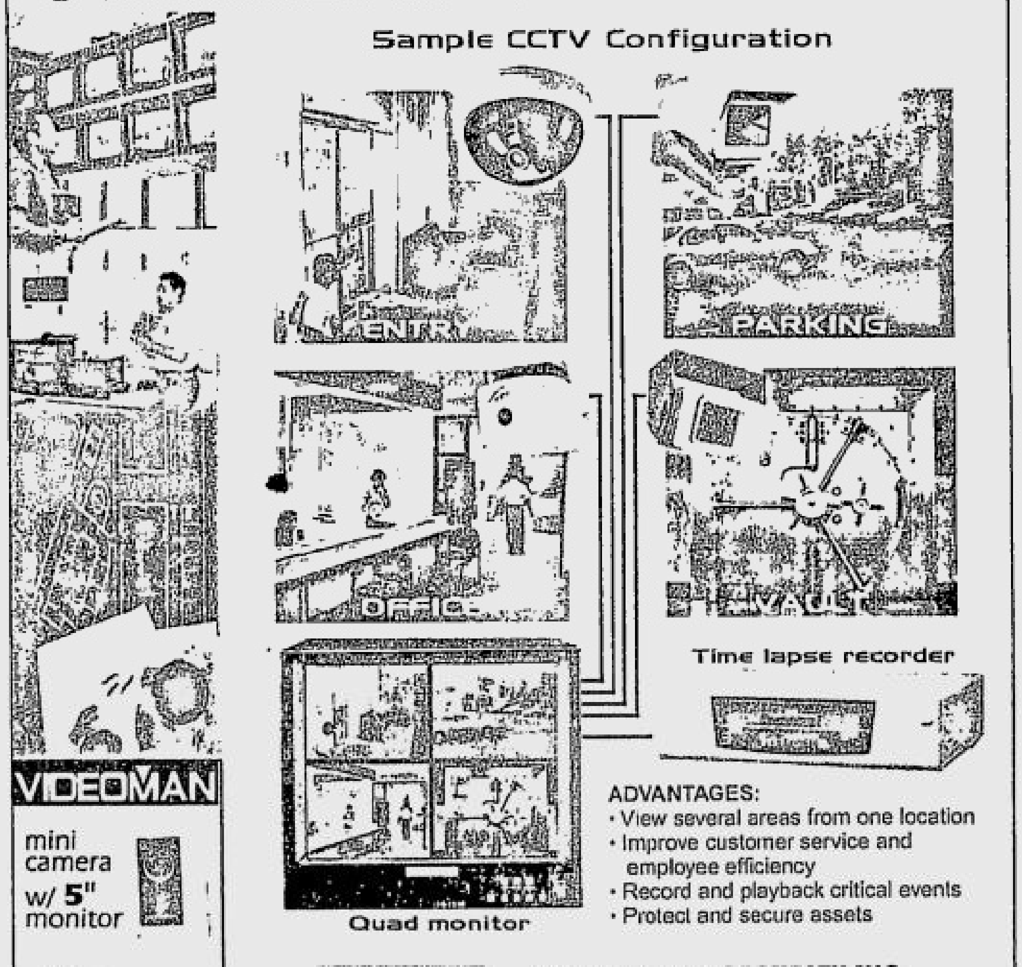

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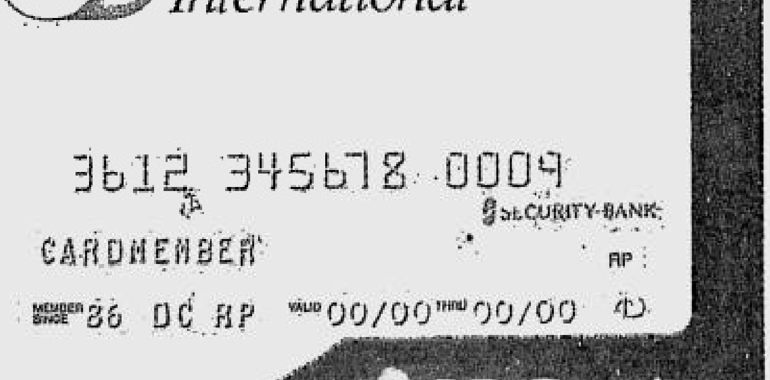

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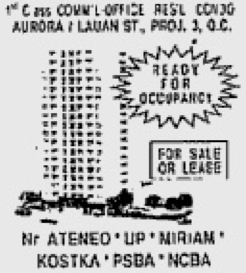

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[illegible] 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID NO. CMIPP-L03-1

All PCAB accredited [illegible] mechanical [illegible] at least Medium A for Mechanical works with owned operational fabrication shop and with company experience in similar steel gate fabrication and installation are invited to apply for eligibility and to bid for the proposed "Improvement of Sluice Steel Gates and Intake Steel Gates of Tayabo Diversion Dam and LTRIS Diversion Dam" at San Jose City, Nueva Ecija and Llanera, Nueva Ecija, respectively.

The Works, with a total approved budget of P3,261,500.00, and a contract duration of 148 calendar days, is funded from the loan proceeds of the project, and involve the following quantities:

TYPE	QUANTITY	
	TAYABO DAM	LTRIS DAM
Sluice Steel Gates, including lifting mechanism and guide frames	1 Assembly	1 Assembly
Intake Steel Gates, including lifting mechanism and guide frames	6 Assemblies	2 Assemblies

The minimum equipment required for the Works are as follows:

EQUIPMENT	UNITS
Crane with Telescopic Boom 15 Tons min	1**
Cargo Truck 8 Tons min	1**
1-Bagger Mixer	2*

* - Owned ** - Owned or Leased

EQUIPMENT	UNITS
Welding Set Oxy-Acetylene Set	2 Each*
Mechanical Tool Set	4*
Portable Concrete Drill Set	4*
Jackhammer	1**

Eligibility application forms may be secured from the office of the BAC Secretariat on October 20-November 3, 2003 upon submission of a letter of intent signed by the Contractor himself, together with a copy of the Contractor's License, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00. Special Power of Attorneys or similar authorization papers presented will not be honored, except authorization thru Board Resolution in case of a Corporation. Deadline for submission of eligibility statement is on November 4, 2003.

Application for eligibility to bid will be evaluated on the basis of non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria with respect to legal, technical and financial requirements of the contract to be bid.

Eligible bidders may obtain the necessary bid forms, drawings and other tender documents from the BAC Secretariat on November 7-17, 2003 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00/set.

Pre-bidding conference will be held at the NIA-CMIPP Conference Room starting at 10:00 AM on November 1[illegible] 2003 to answer bidding-related queries.

Sealed bids in two envelopes will be received by the BAC Chairman on or before 10:00 AM of December 1, 200[illegible] at the NIA-CMIPP Conference Room and will be opened publicly starting at 2:00 PM of the same date and venue.

NIA reserves the right to reject any [illegible] bids that failed to comply with any of the bidding requirements [illegible] make an award to the bidder whose [illegible]

[illegible] ALEXANDER G. COLOMA
BAC [illegible]

(PDI-October 20 & 27, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DAVAO CITY WATER DISTRICT
Km. 5, J.P. Laurel Ave., Davao City, Philippines
Tel. No.: 221-9400 (connecting all departments)
Tel. Nos.: 221-6218 to 19 (Regional Training Center, Madapo Hill, Davao City)
• Fax: (82) 226-4885

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Notice is hereby given to all interested contractors under PCAB Category Medium A for the proposed construction of 680 cu.m. R.C. Ground Reservoir and Fence/Site Grading Development at Brgy. Panacan, Davao City.

The APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT is Php2,208,018.13

Pre-C/Eligibility requirements are available at the DCWD BAC-B c/o Office of the General Manager starting October 27, 2003, during its business hours. Deadline for the submission of Pre-C/eligibility documents will be on November 17, 2003. Schedule of the Pre-bid Conference shall be on December 18, 2003, and the Opening of Bids shall be on December 29, 2003.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids received and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDWIN V. REGALADO
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee-B

(PDI-Oct. 27 & Nov. 3, 2003)

NHMFC to settle P6.5-B debt to GSIS

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE NATIONAL Home Mortgage Finance Corp. will soon settle its P6.5-billion debt to the Government Service Insurance System with the turnover of the housing loans funded by the state-controlled pension fund.

"We'll cover the P6.5 billion with residential mortgages and then we'll call it quits," NHMFC president Angelico Salud told reporters last week.

Salud, however, said that NHMFC would not return the residential mortgages funded by GSIS unless the latter agreed to the "correct amount of debt" owed by the housing agency.

NHMFC claimed that it owed GSIS only P6.5 billion, but GSIS president and chief executive Winston Garcia reportedly said that the debt was actually P11 billion.

Dale Strickland of Ernst & Young, which together with Punongbayan & Araullo serve as NHMFC financial advisers, explained that the government housing agency borrowed P6.5 billion from GSIS around a decade ago to finance housing loans.

Since then, NHMFC has remitted P6 billion in interest and principal payments. The records of the housing agency, supported by receipts of the previous payments, showed that NHMFC's only owed GSIS some P6.5 billion.

NHMFC executive vice president and lawyer Fermin Arzaga said that a joint GSIS and NHMFC team had already reconciled their records and affirmed the P6.5-billion debt, but GSIS top management might not have yet been informed of the results.

NHMFC adopted a rehabilitation plan when it began falling behind on its debt payments to the GSIS, Social Security System and the Home Development Mutual Fund.

All three had funded the NHMFC's Unified Home Lending Program, now covering roughly P40 billion in housing loans.

The housing loans have been divided into highly delinquent, moderately delinquent and current accounts.

Italian jeweler expands Subic Freeport operations

By Michelle V. Remo

ITALIAN jewelry maker Tradiszione Orafa S.R.L. Jewelries is set to expand its operations in the Subic Bay Freeport due to the growing demand for its top-of-the-line jewelry, according to company officials.

Tradiszione said it intended to increase its workforce by at least 50 to meet the expected increase in demand, especially after it signed a partnership with famous Italian jeweler Sergio Ronco.

The tie-up means that Tradiszione will now produce and distribute Ronco jewelry in the Philippines.

"Tradiszione will be expanding its operations by occupying more space to accommodate the production of Ronco products, considered as one of the best fashion jewelry in the world," Felicito Payumo of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority said in a statement.

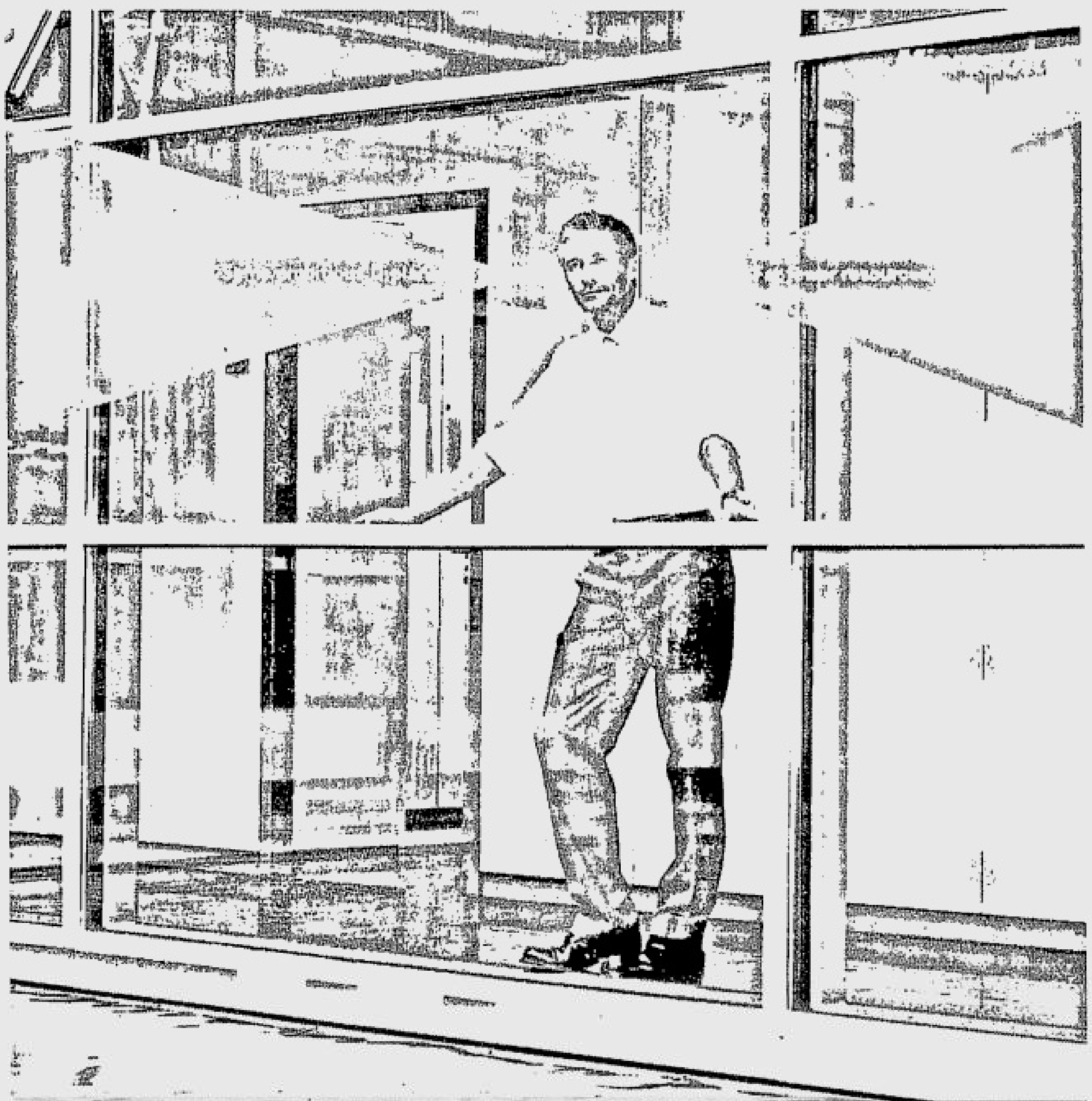
From 21 employees when it began operations in the country, Tradiszione now employs 45 local jewelry craftsmen.

The company's expansion would include the purchase of additional machinery needed for the design and production of jewelry and the expansion of its workplace to accommodate an additional 50 employees.

Payumo said the expansion of the foreign jewelry firm's operations in Subic indicated that there was still investor interest in the former military base, which was turned into a prime economic zone.

Guiseppe Campese, one of the owners of Tradiszione, said the growth of the company's operations in Subic could be partly attributed to the government's support and to Subic's strategic location in the Asia-Pacific region.

Campese also noted the high quality of labor provided by Filipino workers, especially their knack for fashion, which he said was a big plus in the jewelry business.



Windows Server 2003 provides many technical advances that help organizations lower total cost of ownership (TCO). The Windows Resource Manager, for example, lets administrators set resource usage (for processors and memory) on server applications and manage them through Group Policy settings. Network-attached storage helps consolidate file services. Other improvements include support for Non-Uniform Memory Access (NUMA), Intel Hyper-Threading technology, and multi-path input/output (I/O), all of which help "scale up" servers.

For more information, call Microsoft Support Services at +63 (2) 672-7272 or 1-800-1-88-7884 (outside Metro Manila). Send email to phprod@microsoft.com or visit www.microsoft.com/philippines.

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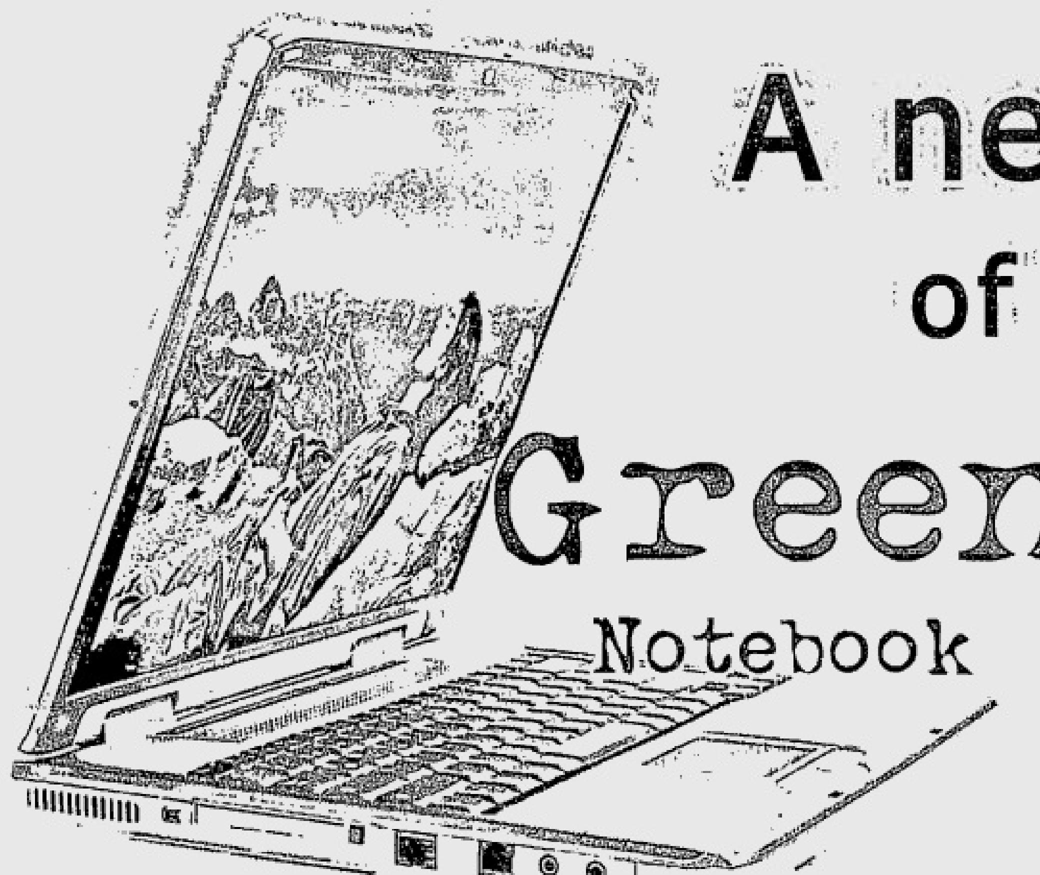

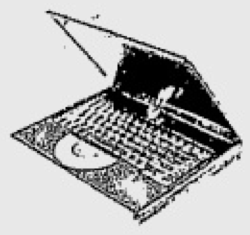

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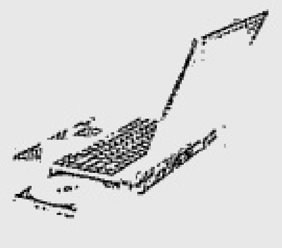

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late TIRSO C. LLAMAS, consisting of conjugal share over Manila Memorial Park Cemetery Lots, Paranaque City referred as Lots ABCD Block 133, V-Garden of Angels, was adjudicated to his sole and only heir and surviving spouse, Amparo San Luis Llamas by means of a public document executed on Aug. 24, 2003 and ratified before Atty. Federico Florendo, Jr., Notary Public for and in Las Pinas City, Metro Manila, and entered into his Notarial Registry as Doc. No. 179; Page No. 37; Book No. 2; Series of 2003 (PDI-Oct. 27, Nov. 3 & 10, 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MONICO G. ALBANO was extra-judicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. #796, Page #160, Book #6, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. Jesus C. Apelado Jr. of QC (PDI-Oct. 13, 20 & 27, 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ARSENIO G. MACATANGAY and Late MAXIMA DAYANG-HIRANG was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as of Oct. 16, 2003 under Doc. No. 370; Page No. 75; Book No. 4; Series of 2003 before notary public Dolorsindo I. Paner (PDI-Oct. 20, 27 & Nov. 3, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the following stock cert. representing one (1) share of The Country Club, Inc. and issued in the name of Mr. Michael L. Recto has been declared lost: Stock Certificate No. 136 for one (1) share.

PERSONAL

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Fr: Gemma Santos & Family

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LUZON CENTRAL DIVISION
Macabulos Drive, Tarlac City
Tel. No. (045) 982-1666 • Fax No. (045) 982-1092
OFFICE OF THE BAC CLUSTER

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID JANITORIAL SERVICES

The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS)**, with office at Macabulos Drive, Tarlac City is inviting bidders for a two (2) year contract of janitorial services for the following SSS Branches:

Area Description/ SSS Branches	No. of Janitors	APPROVED BUDGET FOR CONTRACT (ABC) (for two [2] years)
Region I (Dagupan, Alaminos, Urdaneta)	4	746,984.64
Region III (except Bulacan Area) (Tarlac City, Camiling & Paniqui, Balanga, Mariveles, Cabanatuan, Olongapo, Iba, San Fernando & Angeles)	17	3,817,925.28
Baler, Aurora	1	171,712.56
Bulacan area (Malolos, Meyc., Baliuag & Sta. Maria)	5	1,145,949.60
Total	27	5,882,572.08

Source of Funding : M/R Building – Janitorial

Application for eligibility is open to all janitorial agencies with at least three (3) years experience and must not have been "Blacklisted" by any government agency nor have violated any provision of the contract with past and existing clients.

The list of Eligibility Requirements must be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC Cluster) Secretariat, Macabulos Drive, Tarlac City from October 27 to November 10, 2003. The deadline for submission of eligibility documents is on 13 November 2003. Issuance of bidding documents is on 21 November 2003 to eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 to cover the cost of the bidding documents. Pre-bid conference will be on 25 November 2003 at the Conference Room, SSS Tarlac Building, Tarlac City. Submission and opening of bids shall be announced and confirmed through a Bid Bulletin. For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers (045) 9826967 or 9821666.

The bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

The Social Security System reserves all the rights to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The Social Security System neither assumes any obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder(s) for expenses or losses they incur in connection to this bidding nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ARSENIO P. DASIG**
OIC-Luzon Central Cluster &
Chairperson-BAC Cluster

(PDI–Oct. 27, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nos.: 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc. 6592
website: www.afp.mil.ph
e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Second Publication

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-Stage bid process for the **Upgrade of Three (3) Britten Norman Islander-2A Fixed Wing Aircraft** of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of **Seventy Two Million Pesos (Php 72,000,000.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from entities authorized by the appropriate civil aviation authority, which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build, upgrade or otherwise produce the BN Islander, shall be entertained.

1st stage bid documents will only be available for issuance starting **October 21, 2003** until **November 4, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Seven Thousand and Two Hundred Pesos (Php 7,200.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. Pre-registration documents may only be submitted starting on the day of first publication until the day before the pre-bid conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the 1st stage bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **November 4, 2003 at 1:00 PM** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the BN Islander Aircraft and Naval Air Group facilities upon purchase of bid documents until the deadline of submission of the 1st stage envelopes.

Deadline for submission of 1st stage envelopes is on **November 18, 2003 at 9:00 AM** (local time) to be followed by the Opening of Bids at the Silid Panday Pira. Only those bidders found eligible shall be allowed to participate in the 2nd stage bidding activities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

(original signed)
JORGE G NECESITO
Rear Admiral AFP
Vice Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Oct. 21 & 27, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
City of Parañaque
Metro Manila

Office of the Treasurer

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

B-0-A-B

To satisfy the real estate tax deliquency of the following taxpayers, computation of which includes interest, surcharges and penalties thereon as of July 2003 and after substanially complying with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act. 7160, the City Mayor through the undersigned City Treasurer, hereby gives notice to all interested parties and to the public in general that on **November 7, 2003 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning at the Legislative Building, 2nd Floor City Hall of Parañaque**, the City Treasurer or his authorized representatives will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash and in Philippines Currency, the real estate properties described below:

	Declared Owner	Area (Sqm.)	Classification/ Delqcy. Date	Tax Dec. Numbers	Amount of Delinquency	Interest Due As of July, 2003	Total Amt. Of Delinquency
1	BERMA MGT. CORP. GR. FLR. COM. BLDG. FIRST FLOOR SECOND FLOOR THIRD FLOOR FOURTH FLOOR FIFTH FLOOR SIXTH FLOOR SEVENTH FLOOR ROOF DECK TYPICAL UPPER AND LOWER BASEMENT PARKING LOT 2,3,4,5,10,11,12,13 BLK.4 REDEMPTORIST ROAD, BARANGAY BACLARAN	1,383.88 1,383.88 1,550.68 1,550.58 1,626.85 413.83 1,606.53 906.81 1,462.75 1,383.88 1,383.88	COM. IMPVT. - 1999-2003	E002-06646	15,769,457.55	8,017,524.15	23,786,981.70
2.	BERMA MGT. CORP. ESCALATOR CHILLER PROJECTORS GENSET WATER PUMP ELEVATOR REDEMPTORIST RD., BARANGAY BACLARAN		COM. MACH. 1999-2003	E002-06647	2,132,270.25	1,084,091.07	3,216,361.32
3.	HERNANDO DELA CRUZ/ ATTY. IN FACT DR. RUBEN CAMURUNGAN TCT NO. 99350, LOT 9-A TCT NO. 99352, LOT 9-B TCT NO. 99353, LOT 9-C BO IBAYO, BGY. SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	265,127 75,531 110,517 79,079	RES. LOT 1996-2003	E012-04114	7,741,708.40	4,937,725.28	12,679,433.68
4.	HERNANDO DELA CRUZ / ATTY. IN FACT DR. RUBEN CAMURUNGAN TCT NO. 99346, LOT 8-A TCT NO. 99347, LOT 8-B TCT NO. 99348, LOT 8-C TCT NO. 99349, LOT 8-D VILLONCO ROAD, BGY. B.F. HOMES	87,817 39,802 23,677 12,642 11,696	RES. LOT 1996-2003	E001-06413 Pablo J. Martinez	7,482,008.40	4,754,763.68	12,236,772.08
5.	HERNANDO DELA CRUZ / ATTY. IN FACT DR. RUBEN CAMURUNGAN TCT NO. 99351, LOT 10-A TCT NO. 99354, LOT 10-B BO IBAYO, BGY. SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	125,166 56,284 68,882	RES. LOT 1996-2003	E012-04115	3,654,847.20	2,331,091.60	5,985,938.80
6.	L.G. MATHIESON DEV. CORP. TCT-(S-5206) 93649 LOT B-1 SOUTH SUPER HIGHWAY, BGY. MARCELO	10,000	LAND IND. 1981-2003	E006-02882	2,248,950.00	1,548,774.00	3,797,724.00
7.	LUZON AGGREGATES INC. TCT NO. (S-17821) 22889-T-115, LOT 4474-B BGY. MARCELO GREEN	10,000	IND'L. LOT 1998-2003	E006-03059	1,125,000.00	661,500.00	1,786,500.00
8.	EDMUNDO S. SILVERIO TCT NO. (452442) 131540 LOT 9 SOUTH SUPER HIGHWAY, BGY. SUN VALLEY	5,384.75	LAND IND. 1998-2003	E014-04444 PURISIMA H. VER	1,106,480.10	675,958.67	1,782,438.77
9.	EDMUNDO S. SILVERIO TCT NO. (452448) 131541 LOT 5 SOUTH SUPER HIGHWAY, BGY. SUN VALLEY	5,000	LAND IND. 1998-2003	E014-04442 PURISIMA H. VER	1,031,250.00	630,000.00	1,661,250.00
10	(INLAND TRAILWAYS CO., INC.) JOY REALTY CORP. (New Owner) TCT No. - 132744 IMELDA AVE., BRGY. STO. NIÑO	2,420	LAND 1986-2003	E013-00026 INLAND TRAILWAYS CO., INC.	692,241.00	579,870.72	1,272,111.72
11	ARIES HOLDINGS INC. 30TH FLR. PENTHOUSE CCT NO. 7641 GOLDEN BAY COND. CLEVELAND TOWER MARINA, BGY. DON GALO	615.06	CONDO. PENTHOUSE 1998-2003	E004-02715	386,996.50	202,645.44	589,641.94
12	ALFREDO C. APO TCT NO. (220651) 209132, LOT 2-B SOUTH SUPER HIGHWAY, BGY. MARCELO	451	IND. LAND 1993-2003	E006-01200	165,066.00	101,596.77	266,662.77
13	ALEXANDER & LEE REALTY CORP. TCT. NO. 68406, LOT 5 LAKE LANAO ST., BGY. SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	167	RES. LAND 1999-2003	E012-02679	3,006.00	1,723.44	4,729.44
14	ALEXANDER & LEE REALTY CORP. FIRST FLOOR SECOND FLOOR PORCH LANAI CARPORT TERRACE. FENCE LOT 5 LAKE LANAO ST., BGY. SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	49.8 57.50 2.25 7 13.30 22.40 38.40	HOUSE 1997-2003	E012-02680	52,758.16	32,628.96	85,387.12
15	ALEXANDER & LEE REALTY CORP. TCT NO. 68409, LOT 7 LAKE LANAO ST., BGY. SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	149	RES. LAND 1997-2003	E012-02681	3,874.00	2,395.92	6,269.92
16	ALEXANDER & LEE REALTY CORP. FIRST FLOOR SECOND FLOOR PORCH LANAI CARPORT TERRACE FENCE LOT 7 LAKE LANAO ST. BGY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	49.80 57.50 2.25 7 13.30 22.40 38.36	HOUSE 1999-2003	E012-02682	36,107.28	20,701.58	56,808.86
17	MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO. 16305, LOT 1 BLK 6, MAKATI SOUTH HILLS BGY. SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	797	RES. LAND 1997-2003	E012-01938	20,722.00	12,815.76	33,537.76
18	MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO. 16313, LOT 2 BLK. 2, MAKATI SOUTH HILLS BGY SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	136	RES. LAND 1997-2003	E012-02210	3,536.00	2,186.88	5,722.88
19	MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO. 16314 LOT 1 BLK. 2 CORNER LOT 1 MAKATI SOUTH HILLS, BGY. SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	10	RES. LAND 1997-2003	E012-02211	286.00	176.88	462.88
20	MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO. 16307, LOT 1 MAKATI SOUTH HILLS BGY. SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	2,280	ROAD LOT 1997-2003	E012-02212	29,640.00	18,331.20	47,971.20
21	MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO. 16308, LOT 2 MAKATI SOUTH HILLS BGY. SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	1,378	ROAD LOT 1997-2003	E012-02213	17,914.00	11,079.12	28,993.12
22	MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO. 16311, LOT 3 MAKATI SOUTH HILLS BGY. SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	351	ROAD LOT 1997-2003	E012-02214	4,563.00	2,822.12	7,385.12
23	MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO. 16309, LOT 4 MAKATI SOUTH HILLS BGY. SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	294	ROAD LOT 1997-2003	E012-02215	3,822.00	2,363.76	6,185.76
24	MAKATI SOUTH HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION TCT NO. 16310, LOT 5 MAKATI SOUTH HILLS BGY. SAN MARTIN DE PORRES	345	ROAD LOT 1997-2003	E012-02216	4,485.00	2,773.88	7,258.88
25	OCTAVIO YU GUEVARRA TCT-88731 LOT 13 BLK. 1 BETTER LIVING SUBD. BARANGAY DON BOSCO	285	RES. LOT 1979-2003	E003-02060	17,900.40	19,153.26	37,053.66
26	DANILO G. ARENAS TCT-29268, LOT 4 BLK. 7 EQUITY HOMES BARANGAY MARCELO	150	RES LOT 1996-2003	E006-04793	3,720.00	2,296.80	6,016.80
27	DANILO G. ARENAS HOUSE PATIO LANAI ATTIC CARPORT FENCE LOT 4 BLK. 7 EQUITY HOMES, BARANGAY MARCELO	51.4 5.6 9.6 6.8 19 18	RES. IMP. 1996-2003	E006-04794	19,566.40	12,075.32	31,641.72
28	RODOLFO, FLORDELIZA BACAR TCT-78992, LOT 13 BLK. 24 SEVERINA DIAMOND SUBDIVISION BARANGAY MARCELO GREEN	225	RES. LOT 2000-2003	E006-04445	3,150.00	1,674.00	4,824.00
29	RODOLFO & FLORDELIZA BACAR TCT - (100213) 78991 LOT 15 BLK. 24 SEVERINA DIAMOND SUBDIVISION BARANGAY MARCELO GREEN	426	RES. LOT 2000-2003	E006-04446	6,560.40	3,486.42	10,046.82
30	RODOLFO & FLORDELIZA BACAR BUNGALOW LOT 15 SEVERINA DIAMOND SUBD. BARANGAY MARCELO GREEN	218.75	IMPVT. 2000-2003	E006-04447	17,750.60	9,433.14	27,183.74
31	RUBEN E. ALOMIA FIRST FLOOR SECOND FLOOR CARPORT FENCE LOT 6 EVERLASTING ST. MGV BARANGAY MARCELO	63 71.4 10 30	IMPVT. 1998-2003	E006-00457	26,075.72	15,645.34	41,721.06
					Grand Total		69,511,017.52

(Sgd.) LIBERATO M. CARABEO
City Treasurer

(PDI – October 27 & November 4, 2003)

MABUHAY AWARDS 2003 – MANAGERIAL CATEGORY NOMINEES

Front row from left to right – Elvira Santos (Aristocrat Restaurant), Ma. Cecilia Ramirez (Oakwood Premier), Mr. Gerry Plana (Executive Director of PMAP-JUDGE), Atty. Josephus Jimenez (Usec. of Dept. of Labor-JUDGE), Mr. Rodrigo Cornejo (Head, Community Relation/GMA 7-JUDGE), Ma. Angelica Suntay (Century Park), Ma. Cristi Chavez (Hyatt Regency Manila). Back row from left to right – Sammy Soriano (Edsa Shangri-La), Norman Eusebio (Microtel Inn & Suites), Mia Maria Torres (Tagaytay Highlands), Evangeline Perez (Shangri-La Manila), Marry Ann Janette Patmat (Max's Restaurant), Paul Edward Torres (Discovery Suites), Alpha Romero Galubayan, Jr. (Pan Pacific Manila), Hernando Rodriguiez (Westin Philippine Plaza)

MABUHAY AWARDS 2003 – SUPERVISORY CATEGORY NOMINEES

Front row from left to right – Elen Andal (Microtel Inn & Suites), Pilarcita Garcia (Tagaytay Highlands), Ann Marie N. Juacinto (Corp. Affairs Punlaan School Director-JUDGE), Narzalina Lim (President, Asia Pacific Project-JUDGE), Ret. Gen. Roberto Santiago (GM, Aguinaldo Gold Club-JUDGE), Ma. Eleanor L. Eclevia (Max's Restaurant), Marie Yvette Huab (Oakwood Premier). Back row from left to right – Felipe Bermudez Jr. (Shangri-La Manila), Buenvenida Santos (Pan Pacific Manila), Ricardo Gapasin, Jr. (Hyatt Regency Manila), Rogelio Dela Cruz (Aristocrat Restaurant), Cielo Ortega (Westin Philippine Plaza), Maria Teresa Maristela (Manila Diamond), Marie Belen Efre (Discovery Suites), Priscilla De Leon (Century Park), Rodjen Domingo (Edsa Shangri-La), Arnold Guevarra (Mandarin Oriental), Rolando Afan (Manila Peninsula)

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THE AUGUSTINIAN SISTERS
OF OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION
Beg you to recommend to God in your prayers
and sacrifices the soul of our dear

SISTER MARIA SALVACION TRIA VERA, OSA

who passed away on
October 26, 2003 at the age of 82.

May she rest in Peace!

Funeral Mass will be on October 28, 2003
at 8:00 A.M. at the La Consolacion Convent Chapel
273 Santolan Road, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will follow at the La Loma Cemetery
immediately after the Mass.

In Loving Memory of

REV. CLEMENTE I. MATURAN

Retired Pastor, United Church of Christ in the Philippines
Hinunangan / Maasin, Southern Leyte
24 November 1914 – 25 October 2003

Who peacefully joined his Creator.

He is survived by his beloved wife,
CONSOLACION TIO MATURAN
His children: Perla Rizalina & Oscar Tayko,
Edgar Dwight & Lolite, Ben Roland & Nenette,
Ephraim Clemente & Doris,
Arturo Juanito & Nayda, Paul Cornelio & Grace
His grandchildren: Jan & Enan Abuid, Ann, Meg,
Jun, Hans, Jio, Sean and Dixie
and his great grandchild, Zoe Ysobel.

His remains lie in state
at the Loyola Memorial Chapels-Sucat,
Parañaque City. Interment will be on Tuesday,
28 October 2003, 9:00 A.M.
at the Manila Memorial Park-Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Engr. SERGIO "Jerry" T. BACALZO, JR.

Died October 25, 2003
at the age of 53.

Bereaved wife VICKY;
children JECO, RIA, JEM, MICKIE
and KIM; sisters CARMEL, MARIAN,
REYNALD (†), BAMBI, ANA, ALMA;
parents FE and SERGIO, SR. (†)
and relatives and friends request to pray
for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Premiere 2
Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe,
Makati City.

Interment will be on
Tuesday, October 28, 2003 at the
Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City
after the 12 nn Mass at the
Loyola Memorial Chapel.

We, the family of the late

GIBSON CYRUS C. TAN

Wish to express profound gratitude
for your spontaneous love, sympathy and support
at his untimely demise on October 21, 2003.

We find strength and we are humbly grateful
to you all in knowing that he touched so many lives
in his concern for others. He will continue living on
in our hearts and through the lives we lead
as testament to his legacy of love.

Thank you very much.

An obituary with a picture
can be a fitting tribute
to your departed loved one.

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS · DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS · FREE OBIT DESIGN

Whoever finds
his life will
lose it, and
whoever loses
his life for my
sake will
find it.

Matthew 10:39

Luningning Solitario Santoyo

of Cabanatuan City & Quezon City
Peacefully joined her Creator
on October 23, 2003 at the age of 67.

Her loving husband Jose, Jr.; children Joey & Wilma, Johnnel & Aileen, Neth & Eddie, Nia & Randolf, Jovan & Lanie; her grandchildren, sisters, brothers, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her residence in Pili St., Greenfields I, Novaliches, Quezon City. Cremation schedule will be announced later or call 418-4484

CLASSIFIEDS

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-PSD 2003-010

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 17, 2003; 9:00 AM			
10A1	ELECTROMATIC RELIEF VALVE ASSY.	MCF-02-649 (JP)	P 3,600,000.00
10A2	SCAPPER AND CHAIN GUIDE ROLLERS FOR MAINT. DRAG CHAIN CONVEYOR OF BOILER BOTTOM ASH CONVEYING SYSTEM	MCF-02-714 (JP)	P 1,300,000.00
10A3	CENTRIFUGAL PUMP CAP: 12.5 CU M/HR MFR. INGERSOLL DRESSER PUMPS OR EQUIV. CENTRIFUGAL PUMP CAP., 60 CU.M/HR MFR. INGERSOLL DRESSER PUMPS OR EQUIV.	MCF-02-779/ 780 (JP)	P 400,000.00/ P 2,000,000.00
10A4	REPAIR KIT 4" DIA., BALL VALVE, EB 12M-52BG	MCF-03-221 (JP)	P 1,400,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 17, 2003; 2:00 PM			
10B1	J.O. - SUPPLY OF LABOR, MAT'LS., PARTS AND EQUIPMENT FOR RECONDITIONING OF ENGINE OF CATERPILLAR 928 G PAYLOADER WITH SERIAL NO. 7SR00155	MCF-03-417 (JP)	P 1,800,000.00
10B2	PARTS FOR BMH SCREW TYPE SHIP UNLOADER HORIZONTAL CONVEYOR AND VERTICAL CHUTE	MCF-03-443 (JP)	P 16,200,000.00
10B3	FIXED WARNING STATION, SOLAR POWERED REMOTELY CONTROLLED AT BINGA OR SAN ROQUE DAM OFFICES	FFW-02-841 (JP)	P 7,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 18, 2003; 9:00 AM			
10C1	FLOW INDICATOR & BREATHER CONTROL SYSTEM	MAG-03-110 (RA)	P 1,440,000.00
10C2	SPAREPARTS FOR MIPREG 600C DIGITAL GOVERNORS OF HYDRAULIC TURBINES	MAG-03-163 (NY)	P 2,500,000.00
10C3	CENTRIFUGAL PUMP, VERTICAL, SINGLE STAGE, CAP.: 400 TO 500 LTRS/MINUTE	MAG-03-167 (NY)	P 990,000.00
10C4	FILTER, AUTOMATIC BACK - FLUSHING FOR TURBINE/GENERATOR COOLING WATER SYSTEM	MAG-03-168 (NY)	P 9,600,000.00
10C5	J.O. - SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MAT'LS IN THE TOTAL REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS FOR CONTROL ROOM AND OTHER OFFICES WITH THREE (3) PACKAGE TYPE WATER-COOLED A/C SYSTEM	MAG-02-216 (JS)	P 1,078,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 18, 2003; 2:00 PM			
10D1	J.O. - REPAIR & RECONDITIONING OF ONE (1) AC MOTOR, BRAND LEECHUN	BCF-03-397 (NY)	P 1,000,000.00
10D2	ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROPHOTOMETER	BCF-03-641 (ZC)	P 1,950,000.00
10D3	STATIONARY LEAD ACID BATTERY	BCF-03-403 (NY)	P 12,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 19, 2003; 9:00 AM			
10E1	FLOW CONTROL VALVES	BAC-03-632 (RP)	P 3,000,000.00
10E2	J.O. - SUPPLY OF LABOR, MAT'LS, TOOLS, EQUIPMENT INCLUDING SUPERVISION AND COMMISSIONING IN THE INSTALLATION OF VIBRATION PROBES FOR COOLING TOWER GEARBOXES & MOTORS OF BAC-MAN GPP (UNIT 1 & 2)	BAC-03-557 (RP)	P 3,000,000.00
10E3	SUPPLY OF SPARE PARTS OF COOLING TOWER GEARBOX (BROOK HANSEN) INCLUDING OTHER MATERIALS NEEDED	BAC-03-685 (RP)	P 3,000,000.00
10E4	J.O. - SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MAT'LS FOR REHABILITATION OF PAGING SYSTEM OF BAC-MAN 1	BAC-03-555 (AC)	P 2,499,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 19, 2003; 2:00 PM			
10F1	CONDENSER LEVEL CONTROL VALVE	BAC-03-729 (JP)	P 1,300,000.00
10F2	J.O. - SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATERIALS, DEVICES, TOOLS AND EQUIPTMENT FOR THE REHABILITATION AND UPGRADING OF FIRE DETECTION, ALARM AND CO2 FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM OF BAC-MAN II, UNIT #3	BAC-03-0432 (JP)	P 9,800,000.00
10F3	J.O. - SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATERIALS, TOOLS, EQUIPMENT, CONSUMABLES AND TECHNICAL SUPERVISION IN PAINTING OF MAKBAN SWITCHYARD STRUCTURE AT PLANT A	MGO-03-0309 (JS)	P 900,000.00
10F4	ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROMETER	TGP-03-052 (ZC)	P 2,000,000.00
DATE OF BIDDING: NOVEMBER 20, 2003; 10:00 AM			
10G1	PORTABLE DATA COLLECTOR/ANALYZER AND SOFTWARE	PGPP1-03-188 (ZC)	P 2,500,000.00
10G2	BEARING ASSY & OIL PUMPS FOR EXHAUST GAS TURBO CHARGER, VTR 401, MANUFACTURED BY BBC, BADEN, SWITZERLAND	PDP1-03-323 (NY)	P 1,181,855.20
10G3	UPGRADING OF DESKTOP COMPUTER, SUPPLY OF FAX MACHINE AND COMPUTER SUPPLIES	CEC-03-005 & ETC. (ID)	P 1,583,050.00
DATE OF BIDDIING: NOVEMBER 20, 2003; 2:00 PM			
10H1	J.O. - SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF MAT'LS AND EQUIPT. FOR THE UPGRADING OF EXISTING SERVICE FEEDER CABLES AND CONST. FF POWERHOUSE BLDG. AND PROVISION OF UNDERGROUND CONDUIT FOR FUTURE ADDL LOADS OF CAMARIN GUESTHOUSE	SAD-03-064 (JS)	P 1,172,400.00
10H2	TURBINE BLADE, 2ND STAGE, GENERATOR SIDE	LGP-03-317 (JP)	P 8,400,000.00
10H3	MATERIALS FOR COOLING TOWER UNIT #1, CONSISTING OF EDGE COVER, OMEGA BAR HOLDER/SUPPORT AND ENDWALL CASING	LGP-03-322 (JP)	P 8,075,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the bidding room for the following bidding schedules on:

10A1-10A3, 10B2	NOVEMBER 4, 2003; 9:00 AM	10F2, 10F4 & 10G1	NOVEMBER 5, 2003, 2:00 PM
10B3, 10C2, 10C4 & 10D3	NOVEMBER 4, 2003, 2:00 PM	10H2-10H3	NOVEMBER 6, 2003, 10:00 AM
10E1-10E4	NOVEMBER 5, 2003; 9:00 AM		

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Dept. of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 100.00 per schedule starting on October 24, 2003. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. up to the specified time as stated in the bid schedules above. Last day of issuance of bid documents shall be seven (7) calendar days from bid date for each schedule.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registrations issued by former Genco Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid. Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One Percent (1%). Surety Bond-Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand with 120 days validity period from the date of opening of bids issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids; and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI - Oct. 20 & 27, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION
5/F Filomena Building
104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village
Makati City, Philippines

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR THE ACQUISITION OF NON-PERFORMING RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOANS THROUGH A SEALED-BID AUCTION SALE

The National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation ("NHMFC"), through its Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC"), hereby issues this invitation to interested parties to apply for pre-qualification and to bid for the purchase of a portfolio of approximately 57,000 non-performing residential mortgage loans secured by single-family attached and detached dwellings located throughout the Philippines (the "Portfolio"). The Portfolio's aggregate outstanding principal balance ("OPB") is approximately Php 14 billion.

The Portfolio will be sold through a sealed-bid auction process (the "Transaction"). Detailed information regarding the Portfolio will be provided to each bidder that qualifies to participate in the Transaction.

Each interested party submitting pre-qualification documents will be required to pay a **TRANSACTION REGISTRATION FEE** of **USD $30,000** (net of bank wire charges) as a condition for pre-qualification. **THE TRANSACTION REGISTRATION FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE.** The only exception shall be in the case where an interested party pays the Transaction Registration, Fee and is later deemed at NHMFC's sole discretion not to qualify to participate, in which case the Transaction Registration Fee shall be refunded in its entirety.

Bidder Registration and Pre-Qualification Documents can be obtained at the following address:

The Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC")
for the Sale of Non-Performing Loans of the UHLP Portfolio
National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation
5th Floor Filomena Building, 104 Amorsolo Street
Makati City, Philippines

Bidder Registration and pre-qualification documents may also be obtained at the following internet address: www.punongbayan-araullo.com/nhmfcloansale1.htm

Interested parties that have duly accomplished the requirements set forth in the Bidder Registration and Pre-Qualification Documents will be evaluated and pre-qualified for participation in the Transaction.

A Pre-Bid Conference shall be held on Friday, November 07, 2003 to discuss details of the Auction Process at the same address cited above.

NHMFC reserves the right to reject any and all interested parties from participating in this Transaction.

(Sgd.) **NIEVES L. OSORIO**
Undersecretary, DOF
Co-Chair, NHMFC-BAC

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO A. DE CASTRO**
Secretary-General, HUDCC
Co-Chair, NHMFC-BAC

(PDI-Oct. 27, 2003)

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

CCP ushers in Foundation Day with kick-off activities

THE CENTRAL Colleges of the Philippines will hold various kick-off activities in celebration of its 50th Foundation Day in 2004.

First on its list is the Youth Summit Training that will be held on Dec. 6 and 13, 2003. The Youth Summit Training, a program that has been carefully developed to serve as a bridge by which the students from different schools can make genuine contact in the pursuit of the most fulfilling aspects of their development. All students participants were chosen based on their submitted applications and will be trained in three different aspects, namely leadership, survival training, and self-awareness and development.

Participants of the training include high school students from Dona Josefa Jara Martinez High School, Carlos Albert High School, Judge Juan Luna High School, 'Quezon City High School, Ernesto Rondon High School, Krus na Ligas High School, Cainta Catholic High School, Manuel Roxas High School, Ismael Mathay High School, St. Anthony School, Ramon Magsaysay High School, St. Nicholas High School, National Christian Life College, Kostka School of Marikina, Little Lambs Learning Centre, Antonio Maceda High School, Elpidio Quirino High School, San Francisco High School, Paco Catholic Academy Foundation, Tanong High School, San Juan National High School, Holy Family School, Mother of Divine Providence School, Gen. Pio del Pilar High School, Academia de Sta. Martha High School, Victoria School Foundation, Marikina High School-Marikina Heights, and St. Mary of the Steps-School. For more details regarding the Youth Summit Training, call the YDS secretariat at 715-3777.

Along with this, CCP will also hold a Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 5 and 6. This second kick-off will be sponsored by CCP-Student Personnel Services and AVP administration headed by 'Joan Reyes. Interested entrepreneurs or companies who wish to exhjbit their products and services can call 715-5170 to 75 local 110 for more information.

New Pajero, Outlander launched

MITSUBISHI Motors Philippines recently launched the new Pajero and Outlander at the Metropolitan Park recently. Shown presenting the new SUV Outlander are Mitsubishi Motors general manager for Asean operations Hisayoshi Kumai (left) and Mitsubishi Motors president and CEO Teruhiko Shibata.

ATTENDING the launch are (from left) Inquirer SVP for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso, PAL special assistant to the chair William Lee, Union Motor Corp EVP Anthony Cheng, Union Motor president Sonny Dee and Inquirer AVP for advertising Kenny Nuyda.

PDI president in Pana confab

INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez was one of the resource speakers during the annual marketing conference of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers held recently. Her topic, 'Emerging Trends in Newspaper Marketing and Advertising', highlighted the importance of innovation and creativity as keys to address the challenges in the print media industry.

PANA president Gigi Rodriguez (2nd from right) presents to Prieto-Romualdez a token of appreciation for being one of the key speakers during the Pana Marketing Conference. Other key Pana officers shown are (from left) Beth Flores, Susie Achacoso-Cruz and Atoy Babasa.

KEY Inquirer officers who attended the marketing conference include (from left) SVP for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso, business development and corporate planning manager Imee Alcantara, marketing officer Hazel Soriaga, SVP for corporate services Dave Valdes, corporate relations manager Celine Madamba, VP for advertising Pepito Olarte, and AVP for advertising Kenny Nuyda. Standing are Mike Salonga (left) and Dennis Leung.

PICS LAUNCHES E-COMMERCE CONGRESS

The Philippine Internet Commerce Society (PICS) recently launched the 2nd National E-Commerce Congress and Exhibit scheduled from Dec. 2 to 4 at the Philippine Trade Training Center, with this year's theme on 'Strengthening SME Competitiveness Through IT and E-Commerce' aimed at helping SMEs to improve their internal business processes with the use of e-business tools. The 3-day conference will focus on SMEs, Electronic Payment and Solutions, and Convergent Technologies. The SME IT Excellence Awards will recognize SMEs that have exemplified the full use of IT and E-Commerce in their business operations. Calls for nominations in this award category are ongoing. Present during the launching were (seated from left) Ernie G. Imperial, chair of SME IT Excellence Awards, Mary Anne D. Tolentino, president of PICS, and Ruel S. Kapunan, Congress 2003 chair. For details, call 896-0639, 896-0637, 899-6893, e-mail fiera@info.com.ph, or log on to www.pics.org.ph, or www.fmi.com.ph.

Inquirer sponsors Pana awards

Pana
MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS

THE ANNUAL marketing communications awards, under the aegis of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana), gathered five of the best marketing communications schools in Metro Manila to show their creative, strategic and integrated marketing skills and vie for the prestigious Pana Marketing Communications Awards. This year's grand prize winner is the marketing team from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, whose product presentation, Uncle Louie's, was adjudged as the best in integrated marketing communications strategy. Other school finalists include the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University and the University of Santo Tomas. Shown is the winning team from PUP receiving their award from Pana president Gigi Rodriguez (front row, 5th from right) and Inquirer SVP for sales and marketing Rene Reinoso (front row, 4th from right). Also shown are Pana executive director Nonie Azarcon, Globe Telecom's Jones Campos, Beth Flores, RPN-9 president Cerge Remonde, Atoy Babasa, Inquirer's VP for advertising Pepito Olarte and AVP for advertising Kenny Nuyda. The annual awards is sponsored by the Inquirer.

THE BOARD of judges, from left, were DTI's Minerva Fajardo, Reinoso, Adidas marketing director Angelica Suiza, Rodriguez, Remonde, CHED director Amelia Biglette and Leo Burnett associate creative director Lissa Boluso.

17 OCTOBER 2003
MANILA HOT

RODRIGUEZ, together with Campos, Susie Achacoso-Cruz, Reinoso, Babasa, Flores, and Fely Rosales gather onstage to award the grand prize winner in the Pana Marketing Communications Awards Year 4.

OLARTE congratulates the grand raffle prize winner in the Pana Marketing Awards. Assisting him is emcee Monching Flores and Nuyda.

Supply-demand mismatch noted in RP IT professionals

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

THERE is an evident mismatch between the supply of information technology graduates and the demand in the local industry, a government official said.

The high-tech industry in the Philippines demands more software engineers, programmers and graduates with good communication skills, according to Jaime Caro, project leader of the Virtual Center for Technology Innovation in Information Technology (VCTI-IT).

Unfortunately, most graduates produced by schools are simply not ready to work for local high-tech companies, he added.

VCTI-IT is a government-backed training institution designed to provide support and continuing education to information technology professionals in the Philippines.

Caro said the local industry needs at least 35,000 IT professionals on the average for various positions every year. This is based on the institution's survey last year.

The top schools in the Philippines could only produce 4,000 to 5,000 graduates, he added.

"Companies hire top graduates or non-information technology graduates and train them," he said.

He cited companies like Adtex, NEC Software, and Canon Information Technologies—mostly Japanese firms—as among top companies hiring the most IT graduates for the past two years.

Caro also noted that call centers are also aggressively recruiting IT graduates to work for them.

"Some IT graduates are attracted to call centers because of the high pay. But I think most top graduates go to software engineering. The call center industry is not causing such a big loss to the software industry," he added.

NOKIA's intelligent medallion

Nokia ventures into 'intelligent' accessories

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

WITH the current decline in demand for newer handsets, mobile phone giant Nokia is now venturing into other products that rides on consumer desire to stay connected through their mobile phones.

Calling them "intelligent accessories," these products capitalizes on existing wireless technologies such as Bluetooth (for personal wireless networking), infrared, and Global Standard for Mobile Communications (GSM)-based applications like short messaging service (SMS) and multimedia messaging service (MMS).

One interesting product is called the Nokia Observation Camera. The product, as the name connotes, is an observation camera that expands the meaning of "Big Brother."

It is just like any regular security camera except that it can be controlled remotely using a GSM mobile handset. Send out an SMS to this device (which has its own mobile number and SIM card), and it sends back a snapshot using MMS to your mobile phone or an email address.

The Nokia camera can also be programmed to take images automatically at certain time intervals, and images are sent straight to a mobile phone or e-mail address, too.

The coolest feature of this product is its ability to report the temperature of a certain room, say, a server room. A built-in motion sensor can also trigger automatic snapshots of any image.

It can also serve as a tool to "eavesdrop" on unsuspecting employees at work since the camera is also a mobile phone, and when called, it can transmit any sound it hears in the background to a "caller."

Another intelligent accessory scheduled for release next year is dubbed Nokia medallions.

Looking like a high-tech choker, the Nokia medallion is actually a wearable display that is designed to store and send images. It supports infrared technology, which means one can take a snapshot of an image from his or her camera phone, then beams it to the contraption.

The Nokia medallion is a steel-framed display that comes in two styles: steel chain or matte rubber. It also comes with timepiece with a touch of a button. Color screen display supports 4,096 colors. The display size is 96 by 96 pixels. It can store up to 8 images.

"The concept behind this product is based on the fact that we already have a lot of image taking devices and very few sharing devices," said Nolan Empalmado, product manager for Nokia Mobile Phones Philippines Inc.

Nokia has also unveiled the Nokia Digital Pen, which cost between P13,000 to P15,000.

This intelligent accessory allows users to send colorful handwritten MMS messages to a compatible phone, e-mail address, or a compatible PC.

The catch, however, is that this digital pen only works with a specially designed paper by a third party.

The digital pen sends information wirelessly using Bluetooth technology to another device.

"This pen is a cool alternative, for instance, to sending sketched maps to friends," added Empalmado.

It can also help users store personal notes on a compatible PC, as image files. Standby time, that is when the digital pen's cap is on, is about 10 hours, and about 2 hours for continuous use.

The digital pen has 1 megabyte of memory, and is compatible with the more recent Nokia models.

All these products will be available in the market by next year.

Spam turning away users

SOME Internet users are so fed up with unwanted ads, or spam, that they are using e-mail less frequently, according to a new survey.

The survey by the Pew Internet and American Life Project found 25 percent of US e-mail users say they are using e-mail less because of spam.

Additionally, more than half of e-mail users say that spam has made them less trusting of e-mail in general, the survey found.

One fear is that legitimate e-mail might be turned away by filters designed to stop spam. Another is that they may miss incoming e-mail from friends, family, or colleagues amid the clutter of spam in their inboxes.

The survey noted that 117 million people in the US use e-mail, roughly 93 percent of the online population. Of these, 70 percent found spam to be a nuisance.

"The huge increase in e-mail spam in recent years is beginning to take its toll on the online world," the report said.

"Some e-mail users say they are using electronic mail less now because of spam. More people are reporting they trust the online environment less ... In short, our new data from a national survey suggest that spam is beginning to undermine the integrity of e-mail and to degrade the online experience."

Among the results of the survey of 1,380 Internet users in June:

- 75 percent of e-mail users are concerned that they cannot stop the flow of spam, no matter what they do.
- 55 percent say they get so many unwanted e-mail messages that it is hard to get to the ones they want.
- 30 percent are concerned that their filtering devices may block incoming important, legitimate e-mail.

"People just love e-mail, and it really bothers them that spam is ruining such a good thing," said Pew research Deborah Fallows.

"People resent the intrusions made by spam; they are angered by its deceptions; and they are offended by much of the truly disgusting content."

Responding to the concerns about spam, the US Senate Wednesday unanimously approved a bill that would ban fraudulent commercial e-mail and create a registry for Americans who don't want to receive spam. *AFP*

IT executive. . .

From page B16

government bids.

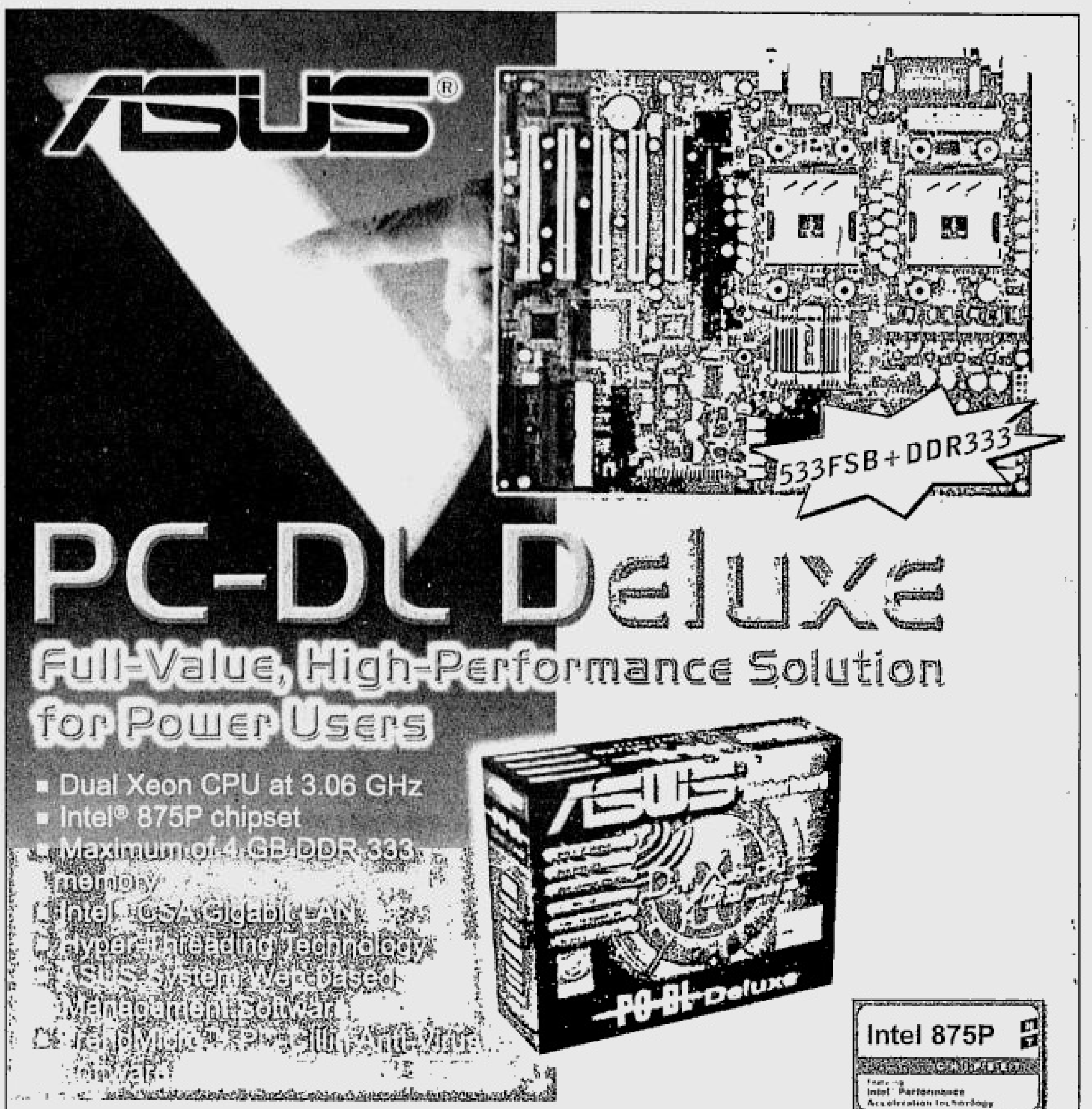
Lastly, Lagman suggested that the Comelec scrap the P300-million project for phase three of the poll modernization.

Phase three involves the supply and development of system for electronic transmission, consolidation and dissemination of election results:

The executive said that phase three is not supported by any law. This project, according to Lagman, even violates the poll modernization law, specifically the "stand-alone" provision under Republic Act 8436.

This law, he said, requires that counting machines (referred to in phase two) should not have the capability to be connected to other machines.

"If the counting machines were to be networked, the Comelec could be accused of manipulating the results as they are being transmitted to the Comelec national office; or worse, the Comelec could be accused of altering the computer programs stored inside the counting machines," Lagman said. "The Comelec has to accept the fact that what they have done so far are mostly illegal, and will create monstrous problems during the May, 2004 elections."



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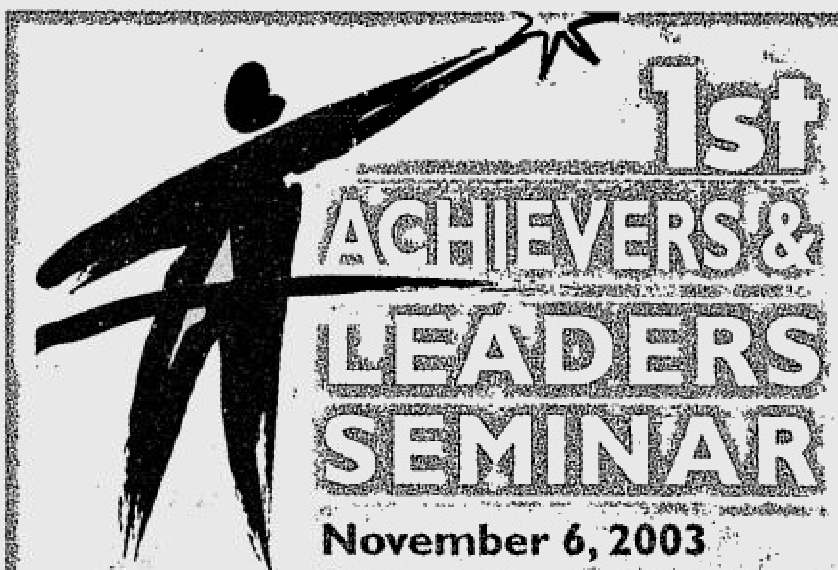

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INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

IT executive to Comelec: stop automation projects

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

AN INFORMATION Technology executive who has been actively espousing the modernization of elections wrote an appeal to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) asking it to stop its modernization projects and prepare for manual elections.

In a letter sent to the Comelec, the Supreme Court and the joint Congressional Oversight Committee on modernization of elections, Augusto Lagman expressed his fear that the poll body might cause more confusion and chaos in the May 2004 elections amid questions and controversies hounding three large information technology projects at the Comelec.

Lagman headed the Systems Group of the National Movement for Free Elections' Operation Quick Count since the Batasan elections in 1984 all the way to the senatorial elections in 2001. The executive, who has been vocal about issues surrounding the computerization of elections, has been with the IT industry for more than 41 years.

Lagman is also a certified computing professional with the Institute for Certification of Computing Professionals of Des Moines, Illinois.

In his letter, the executive said that the three phases of the poll modernization project are either unnecessary or illegal, and therefore are just wasting taxpayer's money.

He cited, for instance, that the Comelec is wasting P1 billion on the voters' validation system (phase one), which intends to provide a way for voters to validate their registration with the poll body.

Lagman stressed that Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos even admitted before the Joint Congressional Oversight committee meeting on Aug. 27, 2003 that voters who have voted in at least one of the last two electoral exercises need not validate their registration.

The Comelec, he added, should concentrate on the registration of new voters and the reactivation of the registration of those who failed to vote in the last two recent elections.

Apparently, the poll body wants to validate the previous registration of some 34 million voters, Lagman said.

"Insisting on this unnecessary validation could cause the disfranchisement of many new prospective voters," the executive added.

The Comelec should at least extend the registration of new voters to 120 days before election day, as provided by the law, he said.

Lagman also urged the Comelec to stop accepting delivery of more "data capturing machines" being supplied by Sagem for phase one of the poll modernization since this project has no legal basis. The data capturing machines intend to do fingerprint comparisons of some 34 million voters.

Reports from the Comelec indicated that the turnout of its vote validation is around 2 percent.

Lagman also asked the Comelec to cancel the P1.3-billion contract with MegaPacific Consortium.

MegaPacific won phase two of the poll body's modernization project which involves the supply of close to 2,000 counting machines for the automated counting and canvassing of votes nationwide.

The Supreme Court this month began hearing the case filed against Comelec officials and the supplier of the counting machines. An information technology group and some individual taxpayers filed a preliminary injunction against the poll body.

If the high court grants their request, the Comelec will be ordered to stop implementing phase two and would likely be asked to re-bid the P1.3-billion contract.

The case against MegaPacific and the Comelec involves questions on the viability of the consortium proponent MegaPacific eSolutions Inc. According to the case, MegaPacific eSolutions was allegedly only incorporated on Feb. 27, 2003.

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IT/B15

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DP %	DP	PROMO DP	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
20%	125,000	80,000	23,888	17,089	13,789	12,159
30%	187,500	142,500	20,902	14,953	12,065	10,639
40%	250,000	205,000	17,916	12,817	10,341	9,119
50%	312,500	267,500	14,930	10,681	8,618	7,599

Matrix AT (SRP: P 680,000.00)			Net Monthly Amortization			
DP %	DP	PROMO DP	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
20%	136,000	91,000	25,990	18,593	15,002	13,229
30%	204,000	159,000	22,741	16,269	13,127	11,576
40%	272,000	227,000	19,492	13,945	11,251	9,922
50%	340,000	295,000	16,244	11,620	9,376	8,268

Financing Scheme 3: LOW MONTHLY AMORTIZATION

MATRIX MT

DP%	DP	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
20%	125,000	500,000	41,667	27,778	21,738	15,552	12,548	11,066
30%	187,500	437,500	36,459	24,306	18,753	13,415	10,825	9,545
40%	250,000	375,000	31,250	20,834	15,768	11,279	9,101	8,025
50%	312,500	312,500	26,042	17,362	13,021	9,143	7,377	6,506

MATRIX AT

DP%	DP	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
20%	136,000	544,000	45,334	30,431	23,841	17,055	13,761	12,135
30%	204,000	476,000	39,667	26,445	20,591	14,731	11,887	10,481
40%	272,000	408,000	34,000	22,667	17,344	12,407	10,011	8,828
50%	340,000	340,000	28,334	18,889	14,167	10,082	8,136	7,175

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Build a network in the construction industry

GROWING YOUR BUSINESS

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor, UP ISSI

ESTABLISHING a market presence is always a tough job for a young business. It is particularly tricky for a service enterprise, like building contracting.

Here are some things you can do for a start:

Be accredited

You may start by registering your business with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB). Registration would qualify you to bid for private-sector projects. If you're interested in doing government projects, then sign up as well with the Interagency Committee (IAC), which is also attached with the PCAB. Accreditation with the IAC would allow you to join biddings in any government agency undertaking a building project.

Many big institutions—public and private—have their own contractor accreditation schemes. Ask how you might be able to break in. Usually, they would require you to submit your own portfolio of accomplished construction projects. Better if you have pictures to show. Best of all, the edifices you've built—no matter how few—should be able to stand close scrutiny, as they now stand.

After you have been registered, you can start watching out for "invitations to bid" in the classified ads section of national dailies. Check them all out. Somehow, for some reason or other, you see more of these announcements in less circulated dailies.

Network

How are you as a networker? It seems to me that aggressive and patient networking is the way to go for "struggling" contractors like you say you are. Of course, putting up a network is not a simple as it sounds. Yu have to patiently, constantly and deliberately meet people and approach institutions. It means developing contacts that would lead you to more contacts.

The obvious place to network is your own social circle. Start with your community. If it is a growing village or barangay, so much the better. Are you active in your homeowners association? What about civic associations like the Jaycees or the Rotarians? Are you with religious communities like Couples for Christ and Marriage Encounter? Members of the Iglesia ni Kristo church, for example, are well known for taking care of their own.

While you're at it, start tracing your school chums, your fraternity brothers, your *barkada* during your heydays. They have grown up, like you, with their own families, affiliations and networks. Join reunions. If you are not yet with a group, consider joining some, the better to disseminate your business card and reputation around. It will also help to join contractor's associations.

Make the acquaintance of your

BUILD/ B2-2

Women fill CEO's mind

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—These days, sex is always on the mind of Norberto "Bing" Viera, president of Texas Instruments Philippines Inc. (Tipi).

He is an advocate for reproductive health care and has institutionalized its practice in Tipi, despite the fact that President Macapagal-Arroyo has not endorsed it.

Viera says counseling the country's female employees about birth spacing, practical birth control principles and their medical and social rights is a "Filipino" decision none of his American counterparts would have initiated unless they understood what being a Filipino Tipi worker means today.

Since 2001, Tipi has been plagued by a group of retired Tipi employees, all women, who blamed the firm for their crippling ailments.

Health campaign

Viera says he responded to their complaints by shifting to an openly active reproductive health campaign in the firm, and admitted that his decision reflected equal measures of calculation and sensitivity.

He directed the firm to open up all its dossiers to allow their former employees access to medical information they require to obtain social security subsidy.

Viera also opened up an ergonomics program for women employees to help correct posture and to ease work tensions while working side-by-side with cold machinery.

He says helping employees cope with the strain involved in operating machinery and their extremely efficient manual workload was the least he could do for the women.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

TEXAS Instruments president Bing Viera focuses on women's health.

PHOTO BY EV ESPIRITU

After all, he says, Filipino women have been responsible for producing $16.80 billion of exported products that made Texas Instruments Philippines one of the top export grossers in the semiconductor and electronics field for almost 10 years.

Eighty percent of the firm's 1,800 employees are women who run most of the manufacturing and processing facilities.

"Studies have always indicated that women have better endurance, better sensibilities and a quick decision-making quality that is essential to a top-performing firm," Viera says.

First Filipino president

The Filipino women's success at Tipi helped convince Texas Instruments' Dallas headquarters to finally relinquish the Tipi to Viera, its first Filipino president, in December 1996. Viera replaced Don Mika, the last American to run.

"Bing's appointment was a milestone, considering that not only is he the first Filipino president of TI in the Philippines, but he is also the first citizen of a host country who took the top most position where TI has a site worldwide," says Korina Carla Nevada, Tipi spokesperson.

Viera, a veteran Tipi engineer, saw the firm accumulate $642 million in investments since the American-owned firm was located to a beautiful hillside in Loakan here by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos in 1980.

Established principally as an electronics firm, Tipi became the magnet that drew investor interest to the Baguio City Export Processing Zone (now known as the Baguio City Economic Zone), before it evolved into a semiconductor facility.

Even for its Filipino genesis, Tipi needed women, says Della Fronda, a former Tipi engineer, who led a group of critics in 2001, along with veteran Tipi factory operators Concesa Ballares and Aurora Bacud.

Cancer link

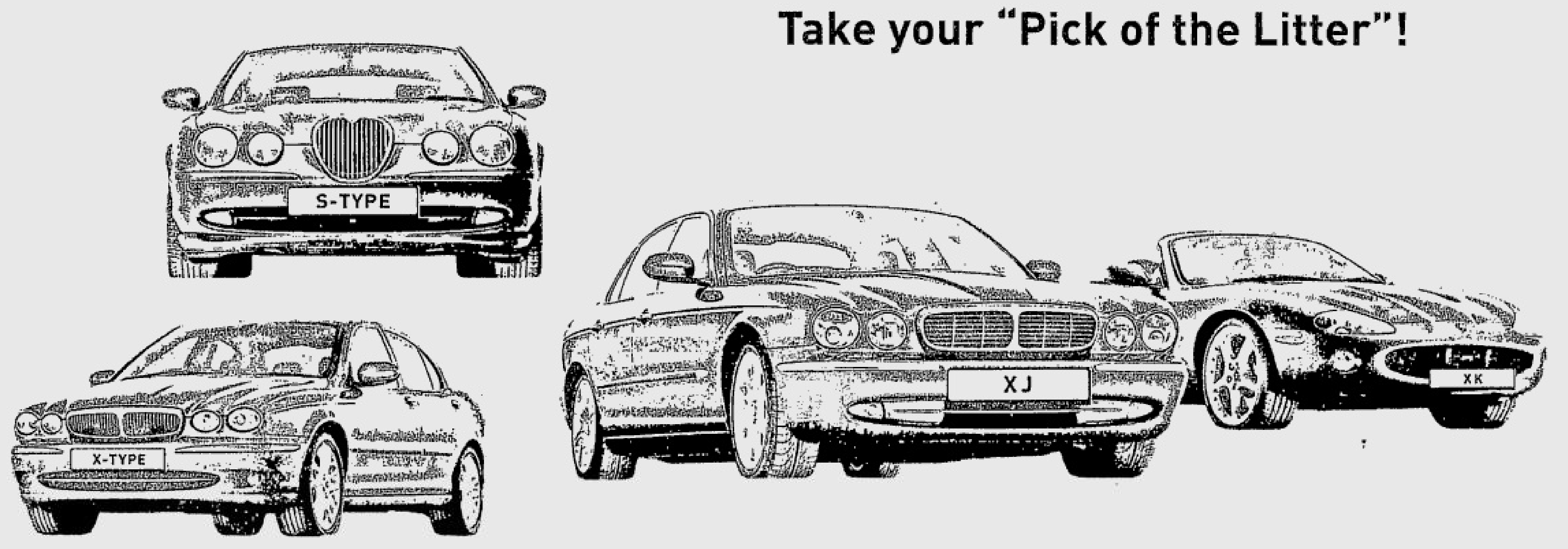
This group—all Viera's contemporaries—had been lobbying for better safety procedures within the firm, after they were able to link cancer-stricken former employees with the 1980s-circa machines they were operating. Tipi and the Department of Labor and Employment have disputed these accusations.

Fronda says the firm started out with less than 200 women. But Ballares says all these veteran women workers were physically fit to deal with the three-shift schedules at the firm.

Every Tipi woman is trained to handle machines that mold silicon, graft in their gold-filaments and process them into fully functioning electronic chips that power cellular telephones and personal computers, she says.

Ballares says the value of women was evident in their chores. "One woman used to be assigned to seven or even 16 machines each shift. Her job was to constantly assist machines do complex bonding processes and she was expected to keep moving throughout her shift. I was shifted to most of the manu-

WOMEN/ B2-2



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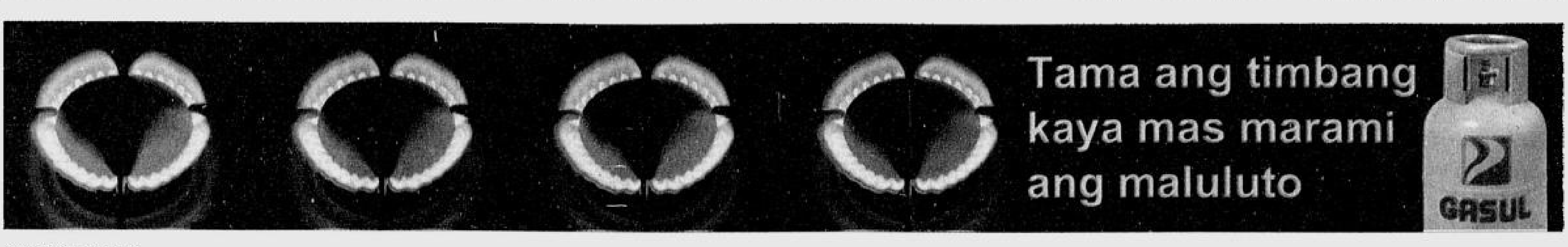

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What is the proper time to arrive for an appointment?

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

NEVER arrive late, that's for sure. Try not to get there too early as well. The best trick is to give yourself extra time as leeway if you are unsure of the traffic situation or the chances that you could get lost finding the place of your meeting. It is better to wait at a nearby café and have a cup of coffee prior to your meeting rather than appearing late and stressed out. Arriving on the dot or 3-5 minutes before the scheduled time is best.

Q: What is the correct way to sneeze and cough in public, especially when I am in a business meeting?

A: If you sense a sneeze or cough coming on, cover your nose and mouth with your left hand (if you are right-handed) thus leaving your right hand clean for shaking hands. However, if you have a cold, please stay home and call in sick, you could contaminate everyone in the meeting. Furthermore, it is very disconcerting to be with someone who is coughing and sneezing constantly whether in a social function or at a business meeting.

Q: Who pays the bill when at a business lunch? When should I offer to pay and when should I not? As a man, do I always pay if I am with a woman?

A: When entertaining a guest, such as when out for a business lunch, business dinner or cocktails, the person who extended the invitation (regardless of gender) is responsible for paying the bill. There is no need for you to make a gesture to pay if you have been invited. If you were the one doing the inviting, then you should pay the bill and not expect your invited guest to make the gesture.

Please email your business etiquette queries to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com names of senders will not be published.

Life insurance industry moves up despite difficult conditions

By Reynaldo A. de Dios
Contributor

THE LIFE sector of the insurance industry performed creditably well in 2002 despite the prevailing difficult economic environment.

There are now 33 life insurers in operation as four foreign life insurers withdrew from the market whilst the number of licensed life insurance agents rose to 26,000 compared with 24, 467 in 2001. Life general agents also increased from 33 to 67 in the same period. What is rather disturbing is that the number of accredited actuaries dropped from 52 in 2001 to only 44 in the year 2002.

Total premium income generated by the life sector amounted to P36. 3 billion, a growth rate of 20.87 percent over the previous year. New business premium income during the period under review reached P7.10 billion, an improvement of 7.59 percent compared to year 2001. This represents 19.53 percent of total premium income. However, single premium policies and unit-linked products accounted for P4.30 billion.

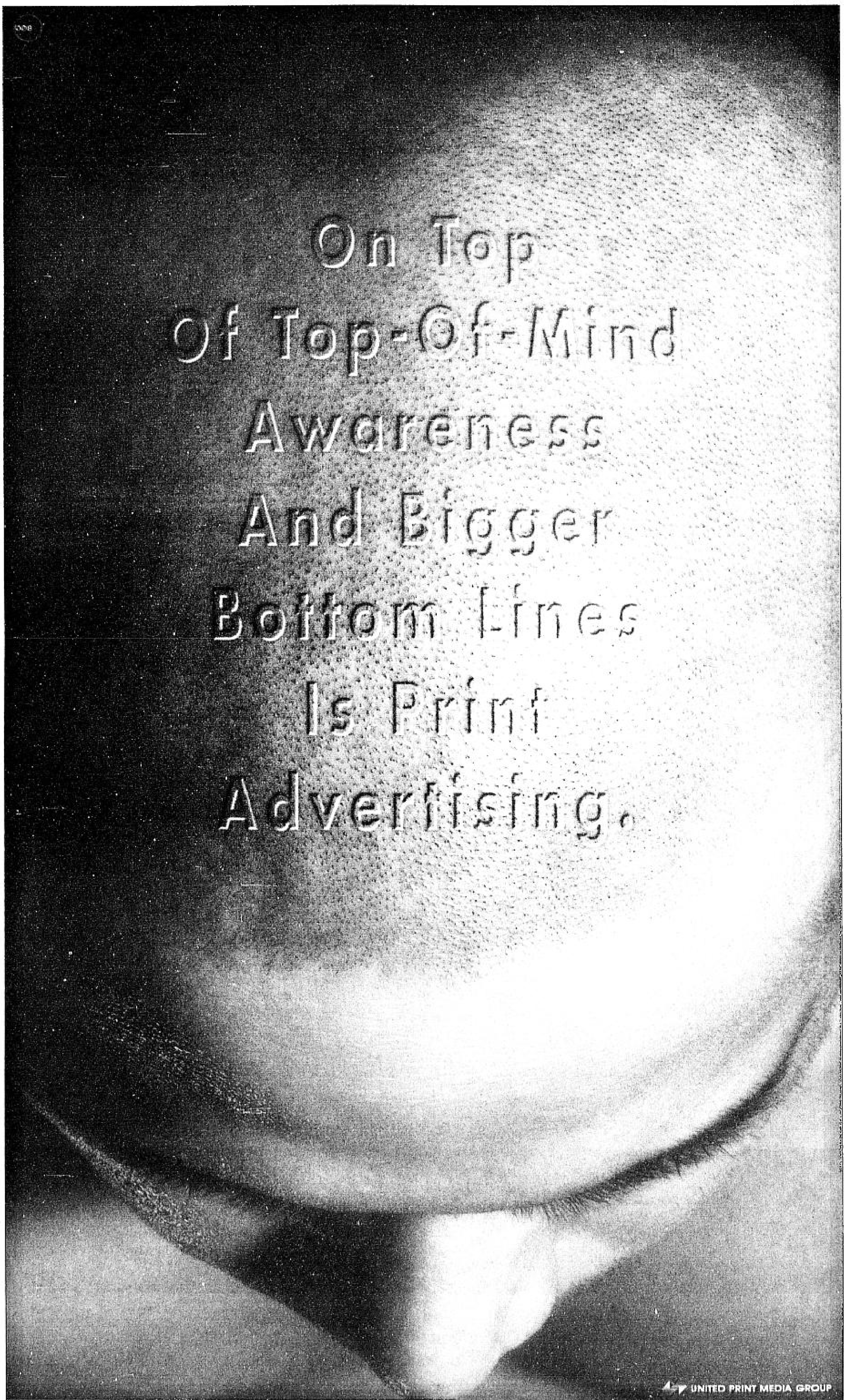
The top ten life insurance companies produced P31.693 billion in premium income which is equivalent to 87.32 percent of the total premium income of P36.3 billion. Thus, 12.68 percent was accounted for by the remaining life insurers. Of the top ten, five are foreign, four domestic and one a joint venture.

A matter of concern is that the number of new policies declined by 13.79 percent with ordinary life policies reduced by 13.53 percent and the number of group life policies decreasing by 39.6 percent. Obviously, the average sum insured per policy has increased resulting in a higher premium cost per policy.

The lapsation rate improved to 8.68 percent from 11.13 percent in 2001, while surrenders deteriorated from 0.83 percent in 2001 to 1.96 percent in 2002. There was a slight improvement in the penetration rate from 12.44 percent in 2001 to 12.53 percent the following year.

Benefit payments of the life sector totaled P13. 287 billion comprising mainly death benefits of P 3. 5 billion

LIFE/ B2-3



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Women fill . . .

From page B2-1

facturing divisions and I realized that this was a chore that would agitate the more aggressive and compulsive males," she says.

The women are protected by thick plastic polymer suits, sanitation loafers and face masks. Even in the late 1980s, Tipi employees were required to undergo frequent medical examinations because the firm's American employers were concerned about women health care, a former employee says.

But Ballares, Fronda and Bacud say they were initially unimpressed by Texas Instruments' decision to take on a Filipino president just as the firm reached its peak revenues.

Ballares says they found the American officials more accessible compared to the present Filipino team.

But Viera says his being a Filipino gives the firm a better reading of the Philippine business future, considering the populist upheavals in recent months which most foreign managers find distressing.

He says the country is buried neck-deep in speculation about Jose Pidal, ignorant of the scandal's domino effect on investor confidence.

A foreigner, with no understanding of the Filipino psyche, would pack up and scamper away, Viera says. "Who would blame him?" he asks.

Viera says the country still uses the jeepney as an icon for Pinoy productivity, when new mass transport technology and a relatively unwieldy traffic crisis in many Filipino cities already make the jeepney obsolete.

Viera says the Filipino's self image has started to hurt the country's electronics field. Over 800 multinational firms export electronics and semiconductor products overseas and are responsible for the 35 percent of the country's exports, he says.

"No new investments are pouring in, and the (Semiconductors and Electronics Industry of the Philippines Inc.) has not been able to (reenergize) the $35 billion investments the industry had piped into the Philippines from 1995 to 2002," Viera says.

"Without electronics, Philippine exports would have generated only $11 billion by this time," he says.

Viera says 2001 saw one of the worst declines in growth for the electronics industry in its 40 years of operation. That was when President Joseph Estrada was ousted by a people's revolt over corruption charges.

Compared to Estrada, the attacks hurled against Tipi by its ailing former employees might seem trivial.

But Viera says his Filipino nature grants him the biggest insight yet to crack these Filipino problems: Make sure its biggest work force, its women, is satisfied.

Build . . .

From page B2-1

local congressman; look for a go-between. In the Philippines, the padrino system still works, you know. Subtly, let your congressman know that you support him; just as subtly ask him to give you a chance to be of help in the infrastructure projects he is spon soring for your community. Then build up the relationship. In the same way, find bridges to your mayor, your municipal/city engineer. All of these can be wellsprings of prospective construction projects.

A contractor I know made himself so active and so indispensable to the Parents' Council of the big sectarian school his daughters go to. When the school put a new gym, he was asked to join the bidding. And he won. Today, 60 per cent of the school's new structures are constructed by him.

Build for quality

But no matter what you do, don't forget that, in the end, you can only build your market on the basis of your reputation. Build fine and durable structures; never sacrifice quality to profits. Never underspecify. In the end it will be worth it.

Everyone knows that doctors are professionals in whose hands lives of their patients depend. Have you considered how much more lives depend on an engineer—contractor who builds bridges, homes, schools and commercial structures? One disastrous mistake—wham! Think about it.

("Growing Your Business" is a weekly series for forward-looking small enterprises who need guidance in their expansion and growth stages. It is a service to the SME community by the U.P. Institute for Small-Scale Industries. For information about UP ISSI's training programs, call Tels. 928-7076 to 79 or e-mail info.issi@up.edu.ph)

This phone aims to make an exec loosen his tie

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

BEIJING—What will an executive do when faced with an e-mail box with over 50 messages?

If Sony Ericsson would have its way, that executive would loosen his tie, click the stylus of his phone PDA , forget his e-mail and instead play V Rally 1.The executive would unconsciously be swaying his body to the left, then to the right, depending on the direction his "car" was going.

When the executive's virtual car smashes into the wall and 'GAME OVER' flashes in front of him, he will stop, tighten his tie and face the 50 e-mails.

"That's the use of this phone," quips Mike Pauwels, senior manager for product marketing of Sony Ericsson's global marketing division, during the launch of the firm's new phones in the Chinese capital.

THE NEW P900 enables its owners to browse the Net, do a PowerPoint presentation, take a video and play games.

The phone he was referring to is the Sony Ericsson P900, the latest top of the line model of the two-year-old merged Japanese-Swedish firm that will be brought to the Philippine market next month.

It is expected to be the most expensive phone in the country at around P40,000 a unit.

That same executive with the P900 could be finalizing his PowerPoint presentation for a sales convention; or looking at a video of what's happening in his firm's factory in China; or watching a movie on his phone.

JAN Wareby hopes to encourage firms to invest in the new phone.

Pauwels says the phone is a business tool that can provide a return on investment to its owner. This, he says, is because the P900 is a phone/PDA, with view and edit provisions, Quick Office, MS documents and Internet browser.

He boasts that while the phone's predecessor, the P800, had 500 applications, the P900 has thousands.

The Sony Ericsson P800 was a quiet success in the Philippines, a country dominated by Nokia phone users. The local office is mum about the number of units sold but some outlets admit they ran out of supply.

Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications International AB marketing manager in the Philippines Patrick Larraga says the country turned out to be "one of the biggest markets for the P800 in the Asia Pacific region."

In an interview, Sony Ericsson executive vice president Jan Wareby says they were targeting the professional pioneers and gadget freaks with the P800.

But in the country, Larraga says the phone became a "lifestyle gadget." Techies were the first buyers of the P800, but through marketing programs and that of Smart and Globe, the market expanded and eventually captured a market beyond the techies.

Larraga adds the product did well "because there was no competition in the product category."

Most of the firms which came out with PDA phones were more PDA than phones. The P800 is more of a phone.

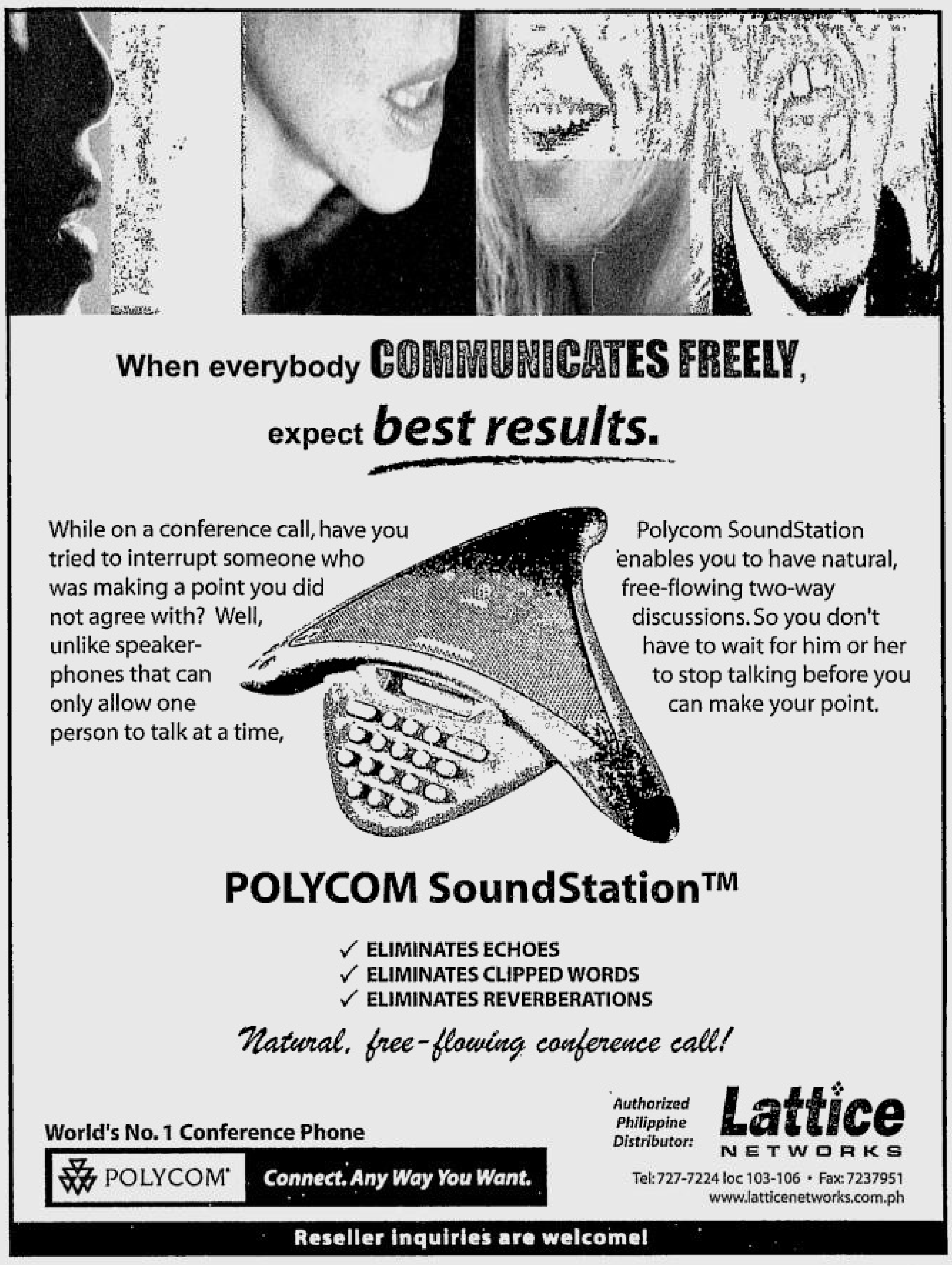
To expand the market, they pitched the P800 beyond the techies and the next group to be attracted to it were the young executives. Other users followed.

"There is a marketing cycle where your first adoptors are the techies. And the business people took to it and later it became a status symbol," he adds.

Wareby says that Sony Ericsson has broadened the market for the P900. They want corporations and enterprises to arm their employees with the phone to help them in their jobs.

The firm has tied up with companies for its phones, such as IBM, which uses the T610 heavily.

SONY Ericsson's Mike Pauwels extols the new features of the firm's top of the line P900.



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Life insurance industry . . .

From page B2-2

(26.27 percent); maturities of P1.36 billion (10.24 percent); dividends of P2.3 billion (22.39 percent) and surrenders of P2. 55 billion (18.90 percent).

In its operations, the life sector experienced an underwriting loss of P1. 02 million compared to a loss of P487.3 million while gross investment income increased to P14.30 billion from P12. 24 billion in the year before.

However, operating expenses declined slightly to P 10.08 billion in comparison with P10.55 billion incurred in 2001.

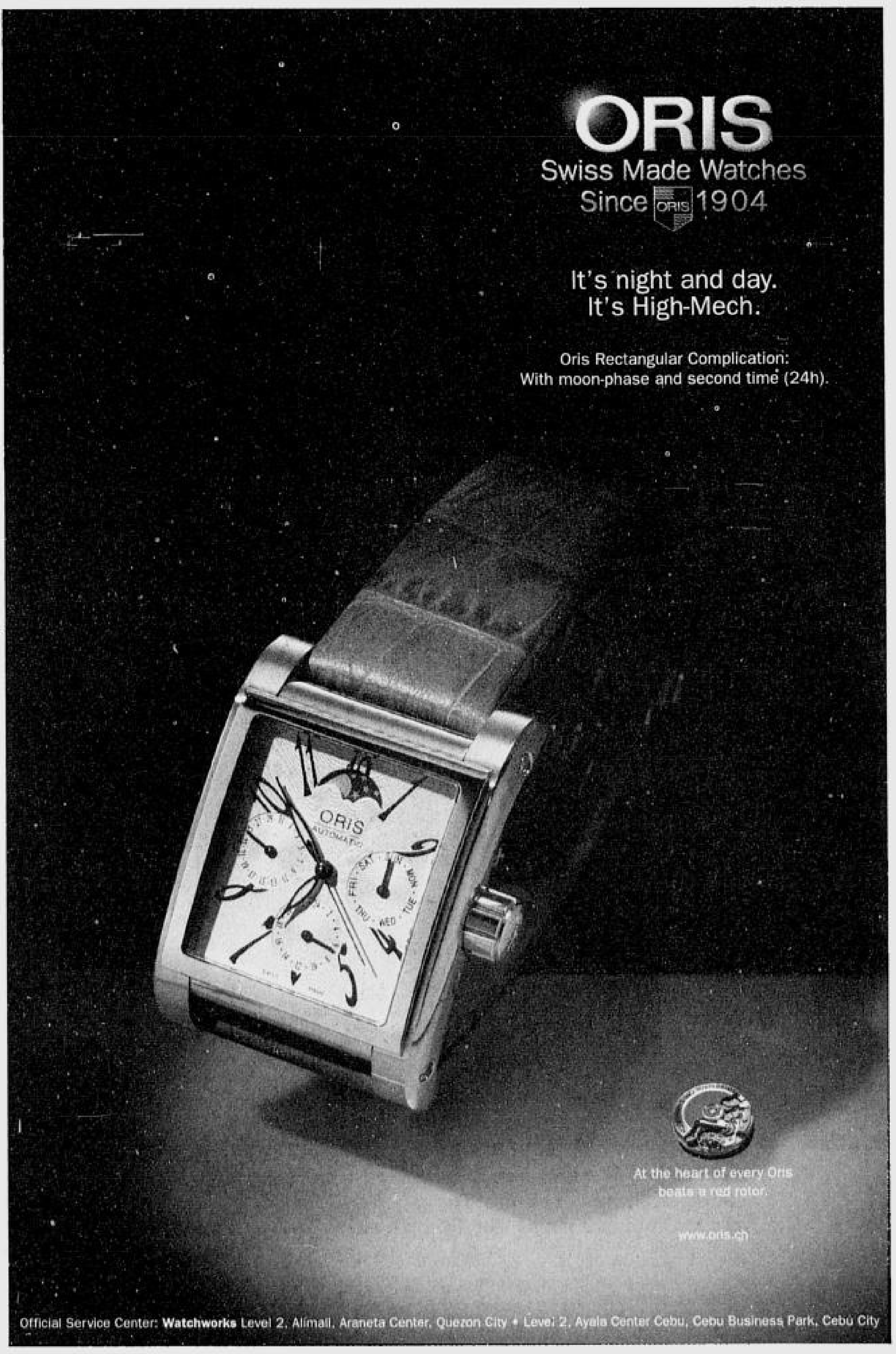
Net income after tax improved considerably from P2.05 billion in 2001 to P3.17 billion in the year under review.

On financials, the assets of the life sector increased by 11.11 percent from P153. 31 billion to P170. 34 billion in 2002 whilst its liabilities escalated by 18.89 percent to P130. 67 billion in comparison with the P109. 91 billion in 2001. This has resulted in a net worth of P39. 67 billion, a decrease of 8.59 percent compared to P43.39 billion in 2001 which reflects a downward trend considering that in the year 2000, the sector's net worth was P51. 98 billion.

The life sector is confronted by a number of serious concerns such as the low level of insurance density and insurance awareness which both the Insurance Commission and the Philippine Life Insurance Association are giving priority attention. Furthermore, the heavy taxation imposed on the life sector has discouraged long-term savings and dampened its growth.

Nevertheless, a number of enlightened legislators have appreciated the plight of the life sector and manifested their support by filing three bills, one in the House and two in the Senate, two of which seeks to abolish the 5 percent premium tax and the documentary stamps tax of P2.50 per P1,000 of sum insured whilst another bill reduces the premium tax from 5 percent to 2 percent.

It is already a well-known fact that the Philippine life insurance industry is the most heavily taxed in the entire Asean Region and what is paradoxical is that a policyholder is being penalized for developing a savings habit which translates into accumulation of premium funds most of which are invested in the economic development of the country. *(The author is a Risk & Management Consultant).*



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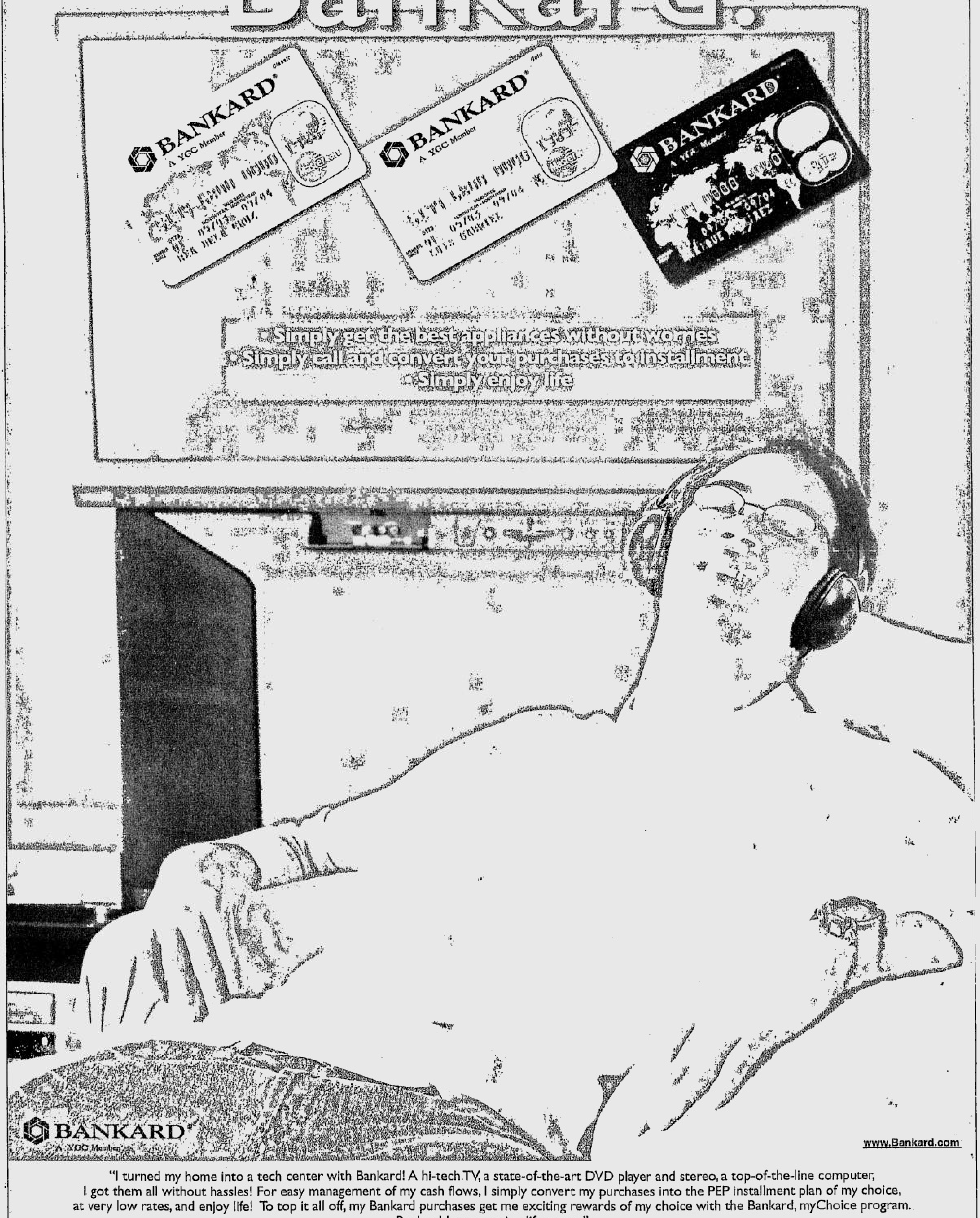
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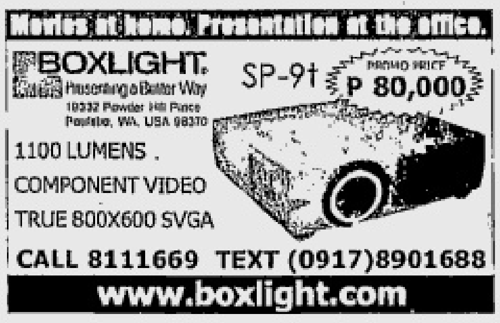
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Juday's earnings go to poor fans, battered women, child abuse victims

By Nini Valera

'GABRIELA.' Judy Ann wants to play the Ilocano heroine in a movie.

JUDY Ann Santos sets aside 5 to 10 percent of her income to finance projects for the poor, including her own fans.

Judy Ann's Touch a Heart foundation also focuses on battered women and sexually abused children.

"I sponsored about 50 fans to a beauty seminar by Les Reyes," Judy Ann told INQUIRER Entertainment last week. "For six sessions, the fans were taught hair-cutting, facial and massage. After the sessions, they received a certificate that would enable them to work abroad. I feel that even if I could not help them in a big way now, I have helped them build a future for themselves. Now they can work instead of just hanging around in my movie sets."

The foundation is being run by directors Joyce Bernal and Gilbert Perez and her two best friends.

"I am just in the background," Judy Ann said. "I just contribute my ideas, but they are the ones really running the foundation."

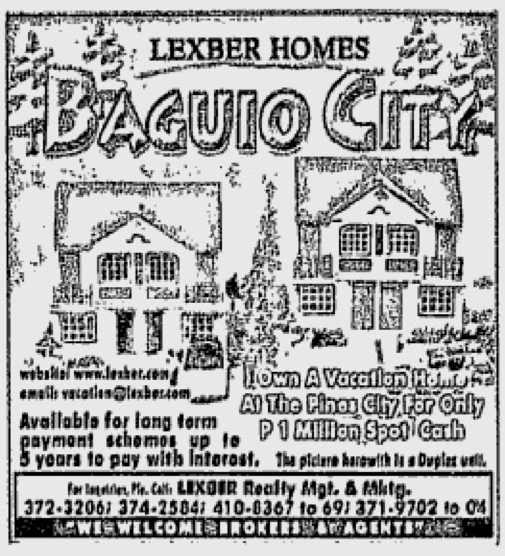
Through the Internet, she has also touched based with non-government organizations concerned with women's issues.

"I like us to go to these women victims and bring them to a peaceful place even for a day so that they forget their problems," Judy Ann confided. "I want to take them to a spa, spend the day there, so that they get the chance to enjoy simple pleasures. Like, I like going to the spa myself because I like the experience of being pampered. I also want these women to be pampered to lift their spirits."

The 25-year-old actress also wants to play the role of Gabriela Silang, the first Fil-

JUDAY/ C2

> 'I see to it that young people could look up to me'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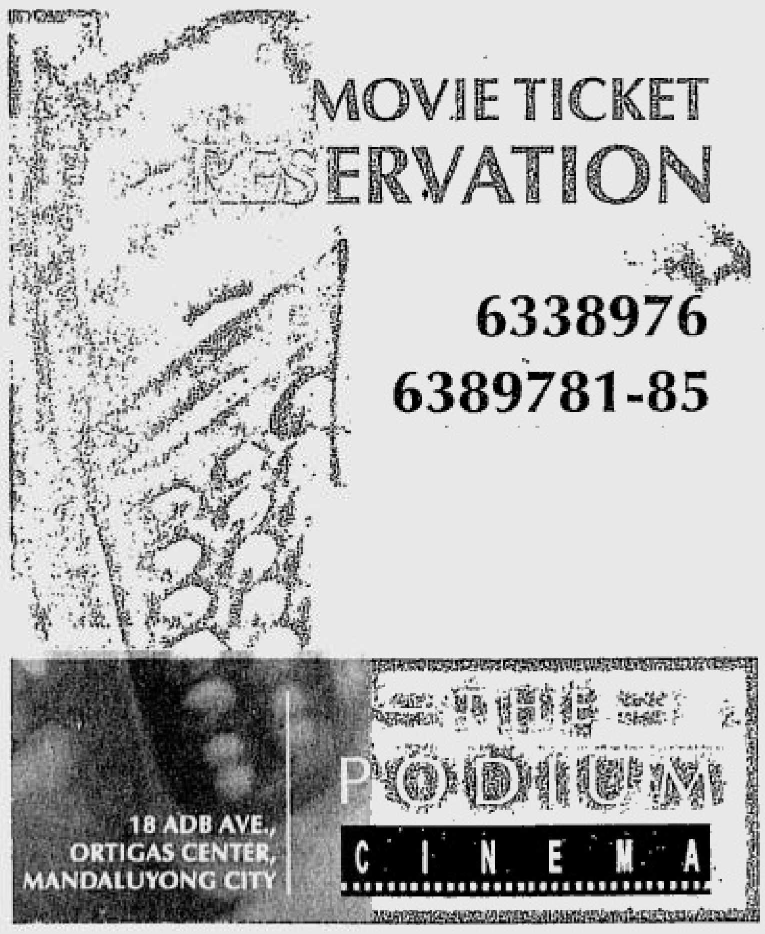
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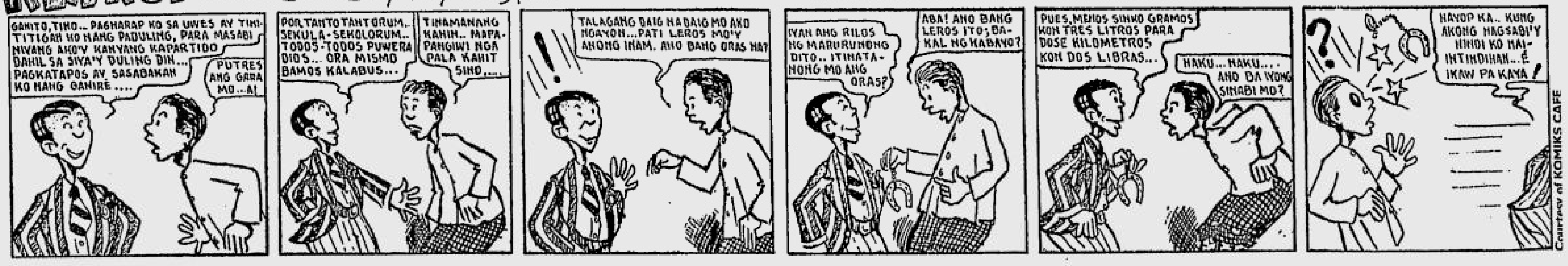
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Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE

Brian McKnight for 2 nights in December

MCKNIGHT for two nights

SHOW TIME

SINGER and songwriter Brian McKnight will again sing to Filipino audiences for two nights in "Brian McKnight with the Stars," at the Araneta Coliseum on Dec. 5 and 6.

The show's repertoire will feature Brian's million-selling songs like "The Way Love Goes," "6-8-12," "One Last Cry," "Back at One," "Love Is, "Anytime," "You Should be Mine," and many others.

In the Philippines, McKnight is best remembered for his hits as well as for recording a duet with Martin Nievera, the top selling "I'm Sorry" which they recorded in Manila.

McKnight is celebrating his 10th year as a hitmaker with the new album "From There to Here." It is a testament to McKnight's impact on the music world.

McKnight, born in New York and now based in Los Angeles, has always downplayed his widely admired artistry.

"I just do what I do," he says of his music. "I started as a musician and a songwriter. In fact, it was the first song I wrote with Brandon Barnes ('The Way Love Goes') that got me a recording contract.

"The first impression anyone had of me was as a songwriter who sang, not as a singer who wrote songs."

"Brian McKnight with the Stars" will also feature Bituin Escalante and Sarah Geronimo.

The concert is produced by Viva Concerts. Tickets for P3,000, P2,500, P2,000, P1,000, P500 and P200 are available at the Araneta Ticketnet (911-5555), SM Ticketnets, Viva Concerts (687-5853, 687-6181 local 715 or 620, and 687-1125).

The 6-S secrets of TT

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

TESSIE Tomas is glowing with vigor and wisdom.

The TV host, comedian and actress also known as "The Original Queen of Daytime TV" continues to be involved in newer and more exciting things to keep herself and her viewers entertained. This week, she has a weeklong celebration, dubbed "Bertdi ni Teysi," on her 9-month-old daily morning show, "Teysi."

Tessie had dreamed of performing since she was nine. She was no stranger to communicating with people mainly because her mother, Laura Hermosa, was a beloved radio personality.

After working in six advertising agencies in the span of a decade, and becoming the "first Filipino creative director" of McCann Erickson, she found artistic fulfillment in front of the camera in 1981 as one of the mainstays of the gag show "Champoy."

The former ad woman is also a gifted lyricist, having written commercial jingles as well as popular songs like Nonoy Zuñiga's "Magandang Gabi." More recently, she was commissioned to write "Ako si Ayen" for Ayen Laurel, and a libretto for Lea Salonga, "Simple Lang Ako," for the international star's "Songs from Home" concert last month.

Tessie even translates into Filipino the songs of her hubby of nine years, singer-marine biologist *Ka* Roger Pullin, when he asks her to.

Tessie reveals that she has never felt younger than now, after many years of successful endeavors. She is wearing a maroon leather jacket, and remarks on her "newfound" fashion sense: "*Napapansin niyo bang nagpapa-bagets ako? G.G. na tayo*—Golden Girl." She is giggling at clips of her old show, where she was wearing clothes that looked very housewife-y.

"*Di ako masyadong nagpapakalkal ng mukha*," she says in typical Teysi fashion, referring to how she maintains her looks. "I also stopped smoking, not even a stick, for almost two years. *Ayoko ring magpa*-Botox. I must admit, *hindi ko rin nagustuhan*."

She says six "s" words have been part and parcel of her well-being, success secrets that have contributed integrally to her personal growth:

Scorpio. Her birthday is on Oct. 31, and her zodiac sign describes people born in this period as sensuous, smoldering, obsessive, and overly creative. She agrees that this is her nature, and has devoted the first day of her weeklong celebration, starting today, to interviewing celebrities like Bembol Roco and Priscilla Almeda, who are fellow Scorpios.

Maroon, or dark red, has been the traditional color of choice for Scorpios, which explains the striking hue of Tessie's jacket.

Spirituality. She claims that "acceptance and letting go" has ruled her, especially now, when she doesn't let problems trouble her. "Lessen the *konsumisyon*, more of the ecstasy," she advises.

A big part of her spirituality comes from her love for her family. She's very proud of *Ka* Roger, who launched an album of folk-gospel tunes, "Travelers in Time," last August. She admits she feels a tad nervous for him when he performs live: "Stage mother *talaga*."

Her son Robin is also a source of inspiration, now a successful fashion designer for B. Lucid and living in Manhattan, New York.

"His spring collection will be on display in Las Vegas. *Pinapadalhan niya nga ako ng damit na* design *niya* made of leather and suede. *'Di ko masuot dito kasi mainit*."

She hopes to spend time with her *unico hijo* this Christmas.

Shows. Her continuing TV presence has been a perpetual boon to her, and she says she is comfortable with the 8 a.m. time slot, as she has always been a morning person since her 9-to-5 advertising days.

"Light *lang ang* show, no serious issues, " she says. "Walang bangayan. Feel good *lang siya, walang* bad news."

She considers working women and housewives her core audience, her *"baluarte,"* as she puts it. Every hourlong show is divided into five segments, including "Trip ni Teysi," which gives her hectic challenges like becoming a bus conductor or *balut* vendor for a day.

"I'm a talk show host, I'm used to that," she says. "But the brilliance of the show, if I may say so, is that I try to put myself in the shoes of the audience. The show has positive values and is activity-oriented. *Sawa na sa problema ang tao*."

She plays the mother of Claudine Barretto's character in ABS-CBN's drama "Buttercup."

TOMAS, no doubt, is a glowing golden girl.

Social work.

Tessie has been helping out her less-fortunate townmates in Catbalogan, Samar. As a result, certain quarters urge her to run for public office every election year.

"*Nakakasaya sa akin ang* social work apart from show biz," she says. "*Nagiging* careful *din ako dahil namimisinterpret*. I must admit it's tempting. *Ayaw kasi ni Ka* Roger, *sabi niya, 'Kapag ginawa mo 'yan, hihintayin na lang kita sa* England.' *Marami rin sa* politics *ang hindi ko masikmura*."

She also does social work for Community and Family Service International, an NGO that helps women and children displaced by the war in Mindanao.

Stand-up comedy. The comedian is the country's first "comedy diva," yet another title that the Jill of all trades holds. She has brought life to parodies of show biz personalities and political figures with her characters Amanda Pineda, Cory Anino, Meldita, and the archetypal trapo's wife and socialite, Barbara Tengco (from the sitcom "Abangan ang Susunod na Kabanata").

She recently returned to her comedic roots for two nights at the comedy bar Comfort Room in Makati City, with comedian-impersonator Jon Santos. She confesses that she was initially jittery, but the "wind beneath my wings," Roger, enthusiastically watched both well-received gigs. She hopes to make more people laugh next year. "As an artist, I have to be multi-media. I'm less neurotic if I do my comedy."

Sex. Last, but definitely not least, is smoldering sex. "My sex life is very okay," she claims. "As active as GMA's! *Ako pa*, Scorpio.

Bumubuga ng apoy, all cylinders!"

Blessings have been abundant in her various careers through the years, and she recognizes them with gratitude: "I've got nothing to prove, no burning ambitions, no big mountains to climb. *Sabi nga*, ease on down the road. At this point, I'm at this stage of my life where I can say, 'I've been there, done that.'

"*Lahat ng dumarating sa akin ngayon*, bonus *na*," Teysi adds.

DE LAS ALAS. Small venues for now

A month of Ai Ai

AFTER winning the Star Awards trophy for best comedy actress, Ai-Ai de las Alas, the undisputed comedy concert queen, celebrates her birthday with a month-long series, "Comedy Closet Queen in Concert," at Klownz 2 Araneta Center in November.

Ai Ai and Allan K own Klownz 2.

The series will kick off on Nov. 3 with guests Ogie Alcasid, Diana Zubiri and Bayani Agbayani, and will run on all Mondays of November.

On Nov. 10, she will trade barbs with stand-up comedians Arnel Ignacio, Allan K and Janno Gibbs. On Nov. 17, she will be joined by fellow Backroom artists Ariel Rivera, Dessa and the Streetboys. On Nov. 24, she will have concert queen Pops Fernandez and "MTB" cohost Randy Santiago as her special guests.

"*Medyo pahinga muna ako sa mga* major concerts this year," says Ai Ai. "*Sa ngayon, parang mas* feel *ko muna mag*-perform *sa* intimate venues like Klownz 2. *Alam niyo naman na sa ganitong klase ng* venues *ako unang nakilala*."

For inquiries on the concert, call Klownz 2 at 995-0874 or Lito at (0917)810-9394.

The Piano Player makes classical music young, fun

MAKSIM brings together classical and pop music in "The Piano Player," his debut album from EMI classics. Suddenly, classical music is young and fun again.

Maksim's first single, an interpretation of Rimsky-Korsakov's "Flight of the Bumblebee," is already creating a buzz in the music scene.

"The Piano Player" has been on Tower Records' Top 25 charts for several weeks now, and the video for his first single is seen on music channels like MTV, MYX, Channel V, and StarTV.

On Nov. 8, Ayala Center and Globe Handyphone, in cooperation with Yamaha, present Maksim at the Greenbelt 3 park in his first Philippine promo tour.

Maksim sums it up well when he says "there's something for everybody" in his CD.

He reinvented some classical pieces. There is, for instance, the "Exodus" theme, from the film of the same title.

The 28-year-old Croatian's musical training and his enormous love for music combine to make an impressive artist. He began his piano lessons at 9, and he performed Haydn's C major piano concerto with an orchestra—just three years later.

When war broke out in his country in 1990, Maksim had to continue with his musical training in his school's basement. He joined and won piano competitions, including first prize in the Rubinstein international piano competition.

MAKSIM/ C6

Juday's earnings go to poor fans, battered women, child abuse victims

From page C1

ipino woman to lead an army to fight Spanish oppression in the 18th century.

"I look up to her," she said of Gabriela Silang. "She made her own stand. I like to play roles that would portray the right of women because I feel that everybody still sees women as weaker (than men)."

Women as heroes

Speaking mostly in Taglish, Judy Ann observed that most people still look up to men as the only "heroes."

"But I feel that we women should be in the list of heroes," she said. "We've also done a lot of things. I feel that women are gutsier than men. They would take more risks than men. Even if their actions will bring about their doom, women will still fight for their right."

While taking the cudgels for women's right, Judy Ann downplays her prominence as a role model for the youth.

"I don't want to think that I have a very big responsibility to my public because I might become stiff (in dealing with people)," she said. "If I'm conscious of being a role model, I might not enjoy myself anymore. But I see to it that young people could look up to me."

Virgin in malicious world

As an actor, Judy Ann wants to think that she still has not made a mark in the industry, which has nurtured her for 13 years now.

"I'm okay if I can leave my mark in show biz," she said. "I don't like to think that I have already achieved something because I might just limit myself."

She is also hoping to win an acting award and to achieve international stardom. But she's happy with what she has, even if that does not include a love life.

After Wowie de Guzman, whom she calls her puppy love, Judy Ann has not been involved with another man.

"I am too focused on my work," she said.

Is she still a virgin?

She laughed and threw back a question: "What do you think? If I said I was no longer a virgin, I don't think anybody would believe. If I said I was a virgin, they also would not believe. But I am a virgin in a world that's filled with malice."

FPJ for president

In her second movie for this year, she plays one of the daughters of Susan Roces in the Regal Films' "Mano Po 2," the saga of a Chinoy family whose patriarch (Christopher de Leon) has three wives. But it is her role opposite Fernando Poe Jr. in "Isusumbong Kita sa Tatay Ko" which she finds most memorable.

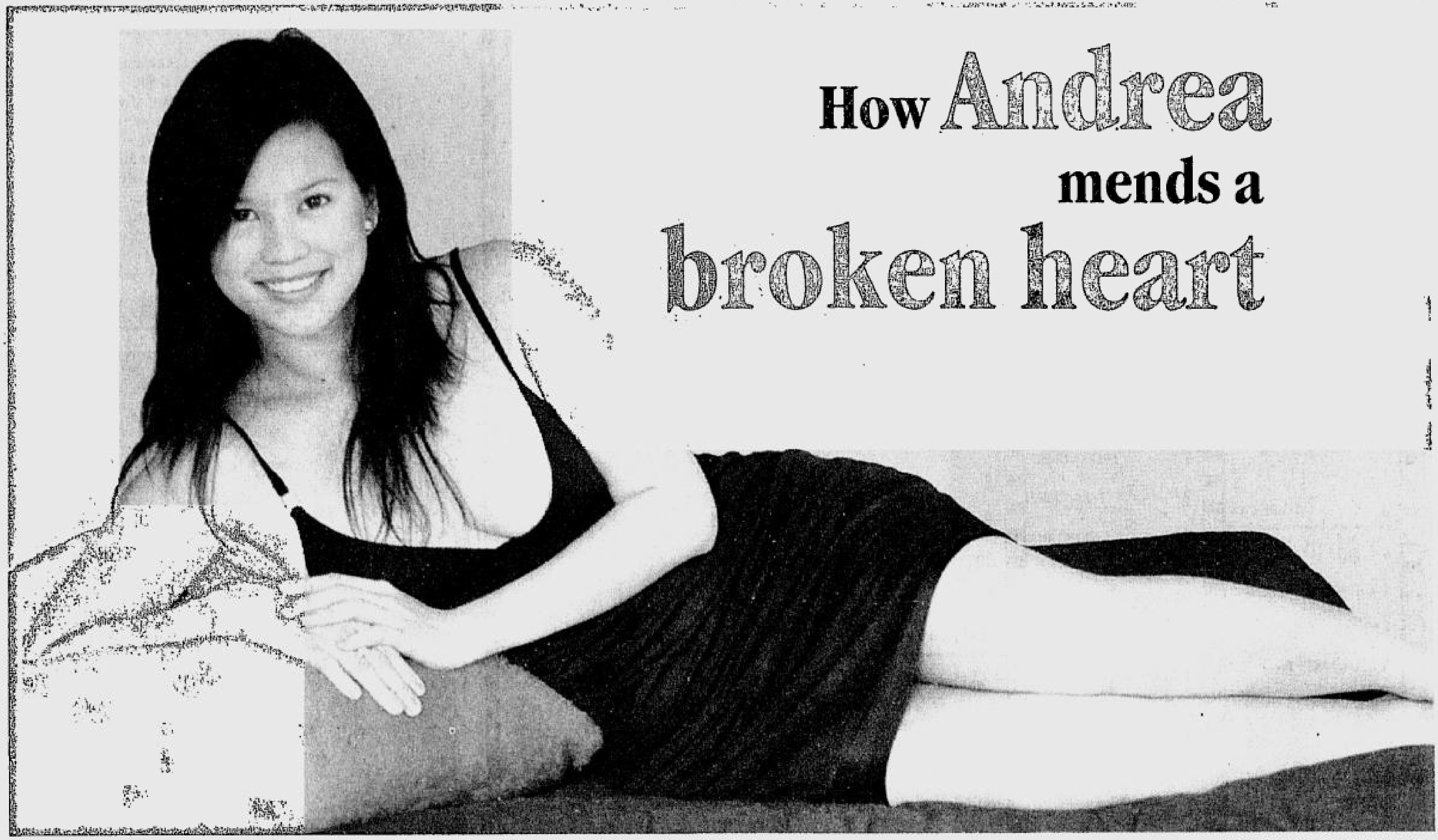
"Can I say that FPJ is still my favorite leading man? He is really different. Even if he's already the king, he's never late on the set. He is so professional and we've established a bond.

"Even now, if I invited him to an affair, he would come the day before and tell me he could not make it the following day. He always wants to be the first among the guests."

Would she vote for him if he ran for president?

"Yes," she said with conviction. "Why wouldn't I? He's a very intelligent person. He's so deep. He has his own (ideas) about what he wants to do (for the country) and how he would solve problems."

How Andrea mends a broken heart


NOT NAKED in bed, because her grandma warned her not to go to sleep in the nude lest a fire broke out while she slept

Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

By Marinel R. Cruz

ANDREA del Rosario is trying to mend her broken heart by focusing on her work, going to the gym—and shopping.

Andrea recently broke up with her French boyfriend because they were both becoming too busy with work, she says. The ex-boyfriend is an executive of a multinational firm who is five years older than she and who has been living in the Philippines for four years. She met him at a party hosted by a common friend two years ago.

"When we broke up, I cried for a whole day," recounts the sexy star of "Bugbog Sarado" in her two-bedroom condo unit in Makati City, "and then I went to the parlor and had my nails done. I also went to the gym and then I shopped to death. I dated other guys shortly after that."

She says her relationship with the Frenchman turned sour after she got busy following the showing of her debut movie, Elwood Perez's "Lupe," last February.

"I was busy with tapings, out-of-town shows and TV appearances," she explains. "Both of us are career-oriented. I think that any guy, whatever his nationality is, would feel a little insecure. This must have pushed him to decide to end the relationship."

Andrea is one of the eight sex kittens who constitute the Viva Hot Babes. Some of the others are Maui Taylor, Katya Santos and Jen Rosendahl.

Andrea will be seen next starring with veterans Armida Siguion-Reyna, Maricel Soriano and Dawn Zulueta in the Metro Manila Film Festival entry of Viva, "Filipinas, May Isang Ina," to be shown in December.

"I fix the house when I'm not busy," says Andrea as she ushers INQUIRER Entertainment to her home, where pictures of her ex-boyfriend still hang on the walls in every room. "And since I don't have a boyfriend or a pet, I take care of the plants. I make it a point to water them everyday."

When she has time, she tidies up her closets. She has two large ones in her bedroom that are filled with tank tops, dresses, jeans and bags.

"Fixing my closets is my therapy," she says. "I do this when I get back from work and before I retire for the night."

Her scarves, swim wear and accessories are in boxes near her queen-sized bed. Her shoes are in racks in a corner of the room, which is also adorned by a Malang given to her by the artist himself.

OUT OF THE CLOSET

Sandals. "I love shoes. I can go without eating for a week just so I could buy the pair that I want. But now I have a little bit of everything that I need. These black Nine West sandals are my favorite. They're kind of costly but they're worth it. *Bugbog sarado talaga sa akin ito*. I got my second favorite pair of sandals from Bangkok. It's red, strappy and it looks sexy."

Boots. "I have mostly brown and black. I make sure they match my belts. I buy only the good-quality ones because these are the things that people notice. Clothes are not too important. It doesn't matter if your clothes are cheap. It's how you carry them that matters. But a girl like me looks into the details of shoes and belts."

Belts. "I like belts that are simple yet trendy. I don't like *borloloys*. I like this belt's texture so I I bought a red one and a black one. I have a lot of brown belts. Because brown is a neutral color, I can match them with a lot of clothes."

Rubber shoes. "I only have three—my dancing shoes, cross trainers and a pair that's so worn out I don't want you to see it anymore. I'm wearing my dancing shoes right now because I'm going to a dance rehearsal after this interview. My Nike Air Max cross trainers are already three years old. They're very, very sturdy.

Tops. "I stick to plain colored blouses, unless I really, really like a particular blouse. Like this nice top I bought in France a year ago, I hardly use it now. It's unique. I got it in this place called Zarah, which is a famous brand there. Zarah is a counterpart of Mango here.

"I bought this really cute one in Tutuban. We were taping for a show when I spotted this. I like the style so I bought one in peach and in green.

"This copper blouse from Mango is also a favorite. It's unique. You don't need to accessorize much when you're wearing this. I pair it with anything, black pants or jeans.

GIRL IN THE MIRROR. In the absence of a boyfriend, she fixes her closets when she has the time, or she waters the plants.

> 'When we broke up, I cried the whole day. I went to the parlor and had my nails done, and then I went shopping'

IN CASE OF FIRE. She wears a tank top and shorts to bed.

SELF-MADE. Boxes by her bed hold bangles, baubles and beaded accessories, some of which she made herself.

"I first wore a chiffon blouse like this in a show last year. It's by Rhett Eala. I wanted to have one for myself so I bought this in Rhett's shop at Glorietta. I took off my tube top and cropped pants and wore the ensemble at the recent MTV Awards."

Polos. "I bought a lot of polos in France. I also have a couple from Mango. I wear them when I'm not working. I have to wear a lot of sexy outfits when I work so when I go out on dates or with friends, I cover up a bit."

Dresses. "I invest in cocktail dresses. I go for branded ones because if you're an *artista*, a lot of people check out what you're wearing.

"I've not worn most of these dresses yet. This white one I've worn at the premiere of 'Lupe.' It looks nice. It's not too flashy.

"I bought this red dress because people say red looks good on me. I'm still waiting for the right occasion to wear this, though."

Jeans. "I have so much. *Naipamigay ko na nga yung iba.* I seldom come across a pair that I really, really like but when I do, I keep on wearing it. Right now, my favorite, which is a bootleg one from Levi's, is in the laundry bin. I like its fit and color, which is the classic blue.

"When I buy jeans, the length has to be just right when I wear my three-inch boots. The jeans have to look good, especially at the hips. I don't like bulges. The jeans have to hide my flab."

Scarves. "I have a boxful of scarves that were either bought in Bangkok or given to me by my mom. She imports scarves from India and sells them here. I use them to accentuate my bags, especially when the white polo I'm wearing is too simple."

Shorts. "Instead of buying shorts, I cut the jeans that I no longer wear and turn them into shorts."

Accessories. "These bracelet and necklace are made of ivory. My mom gave them to me. I think they're from Africa.

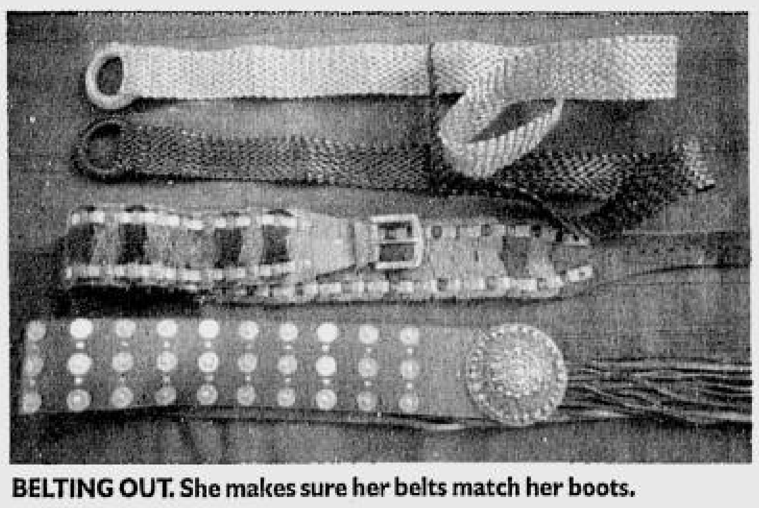
"I bought a lot of nice but cheap bracelets, earrings and necklaces in Bali. I used to be so into these beads and semi-precious stones. But now I'm so busy with work that I'd rather buy than make them. But I made this black choker myself. *Ginanstilyo ko pa 'yan.*"

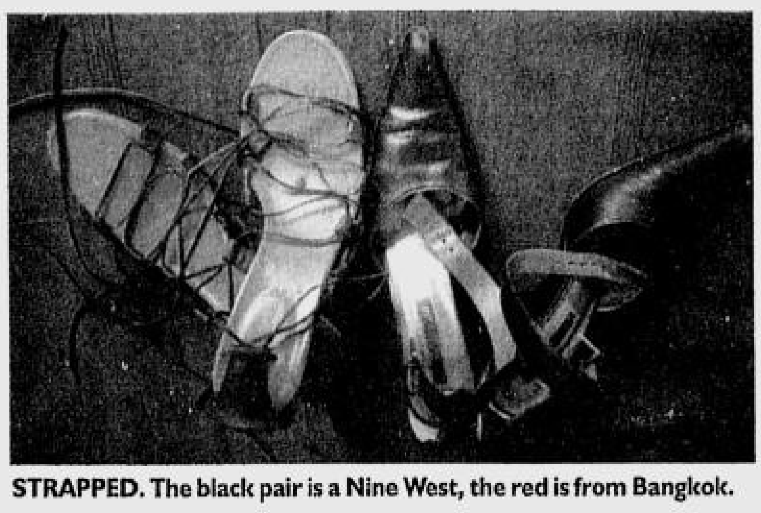
Sleepwear. "I like to wear comfortable shorts and tops when I sleep. I'm not into lingerie. Sometimes tops *lang*, no shorts, sometimes none at all. No, I'm just kidding. I never sleep naked because I remember when I was young, my *lola* told me, 'don't sleep in the nude, a fire might break out while you're asleep.' That made a lot of sense to me. I told myself I would never ever sleep naked after that.

"When I have friends around, I wear cotton pants I bought in Bangkok early this year. I bought several pairs. I wear *sando* with these pants. I want to be able to sit on the couch or lie in my bed without being too self-conscious."

Swimwear. "I always look for two-piece suits that are flattering to the hips. This pair from Taboo is my current favorite. It's re-

HOW/C5


BELTING OUT. She makes sure her belts match her boots.


STRAPPED. The black pair is a Nine West, the red is from Bangkok.

LOST CAUSE. Her bags are hardly used, following a Makati bar incident where she lost a bag and all its valuable contents.

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12 HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

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4 UNDERWORLD 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50
6 FREAKY FRIDAY 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
7 BELPHEGOR 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8 THE SUSPECT 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
9 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING 12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00
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3 BELPHEGOR - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
4 UTANG NG AMA - 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
5 FREAKY FRIDAY - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
6 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER - 10:55, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
7 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00

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3 AMERICAN PIE:THE WEDDING
4 FREAKY FRIDAY
5 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
6 BELPHEGOR:CURSE OF THE MUMMY
7 UTANG NG AMA
8 BUGBOG SARADO

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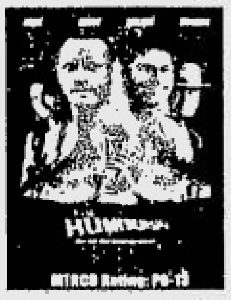

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DID YOU KNOW...

At the glittering 50th anniversary bash of ABS-CBN at the PICC last Oct. 17, an event that reportedly cost the network P20 million, some celebrities refused to rely on local designers to do their outfits. **Piolo Pascual** stood out as usual in Hugo Boss. **Aga Muhlach** was dapper, as always, in a Gucci. **Marvin Agustin** came in a Cerrutti. **Korina Sanchez** wore an Escada.

OPENS OCTOBER 29

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Directed by: PHILLIP NOYCE

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13

THE BEST ASIAN HORROR FILM!

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THE PHONE
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OPENS WEDNESDAY !

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS

a landmark reinvented!

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 THE RUNDOWN
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00
PG13

CINEMA 2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
11:05, 1:15, 3:25, 5:35, 7:45, 10:00
R13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM

OCT 29 & 30	"ECLECTIC" NYOY VOLANTE	8:00PM
OCT 30	NINA . SOLE SIREN	9:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

FREAKY FRIDAY GP 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER R13 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	THE RUNDOWN PG13 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:00
MATCHSTICKMEN PG13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	THE SUSPECT R13 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING R18 1:20, 3:25

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

Nyoy at Hard Rock

"ACOUSTIC Fusion," a concert bar tour that started Oct. 1, goes to the Hard Rock Café in Makati tomorrow, Oct. 28, in a show with Nyoy Volante and his Mannos with DJ Mike.

The series features the country's top acoustic artists singing jazz, R&B and contemporary tunes.

The bar tour earlier presented Jeffrey Hidalgo and Arnee at the Forum of The Podium, Nina and DJ Mike of Akafellas at Bagaberde in Pasig, and Jimmy Bondoc and Romy Jorolan at the Dish at Rockwell Power Plant.

The series is produced by Manhattan Entertainment and presented by Petron Corp. and PCSO in cooperation with Palmolive Naturals Shampoo, Astring-O-Sol, Eye Mo, Libresse, Fitness First, YSA Skin Care Center and Smint Breath Freshener.

How Andrea mends . . .

From page C3

versible. I've worn this in several pictorials for Viva Hot Babes..

"I keep this bathing suit because it has a story behind it. I wore this when I joined Miss Philippines. I was one of the 10 finalists and I won Miss Beautiful Smile. I joined for the experience. I have something to tell the kids when I become a grandmother."

Bags. "I'm not into bags anymore. I lost one of my bags in a bar in Makati. I had everything in that bag—my wallet, license, cards and keys. I merely said hi to a friend but when I went back to my seat, the bag was gone. My car was only four days old when the car got lost.

"I put all my stuff in a small black purse. You'd be surprised because you can fit a lot of things—lipstick, powder, car keys—in this little thing. When I get drunk, I just hang it around my neck so I don't lose it.

"I have a Louis Vuitton bag but I don't carry it. People rave so much about Louis Vuitton, but what's so special about it, anyway? I didn't buy the bag. Someone gave it to me.

"For shows and tapings, I use my ever-reliable Timberland suitcase. I've had this for three years now. It's really sturdy. I've traveled all over Europe with it. It looks heavy but it's not."

Underwear. "I'm not very particular with lingerie. Simple white cotton panties would do. I go for comfort—unless, of course, when I have a date, then I wear thongs.

"I tried thongs because I thought they were sexy. Contrary to common perception, I find wearing thongs comfortable."

AYALA CINEMAS

OPENS TODAY EXCLUSIVELY AT

Greenbelt 1 ArtFilm

DARING. AWARD-WINNING. EXTRAORDINARY

DIANE LANE

UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

Life offers you a thousand chances

... all you have to do is take one.

"A Romantic Winner!"
--- E! Online

"Two Thumbs Up!"
--- Ebert & Roeper

"Lane has once again given an Academy Award - worthy performance!"
--- Paul Clinton, CNN

35 year-old writer Frances Mayes perfect life takes an unexpected detour. Her recent divorce leaves her with writer's block and her best friend suggests 10 days in Tuscany. On a whim, Frances buys a villa there to start fresh. As she flings herself into her new life, she finds new friends and new romances. Can this be what she dreamed of? Will love last under the Tuscan sun?

NOKIA COLUMBIA PICTURES XV INQUIRER

MTRCB ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

THE ROCK
SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT
CHRISTOPHER WALKEN
ROSARIO DAWSON
THE RUNDOWN
BULLS, GUNS, WHIPS, GOLD AND ONE SACRED CAT

New Int'l Action Superstar is born!

Wrestling champ The Rock, next Schwarzenegger in 'RUNDOWN'?

Seven-time world wrestling champion The Rock (SCORPION KING, THE MUMMY RETURNS) is star of THE RUNDOWN, a spectacular crowd-pleasing, no-holds-barred, jungle-action adventure, and the No.1 movie in America.

The testosterone-packed movie launches The Rock as an international Action Superstar a la Arnold Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger shows his support for The Rock as the politics- bound action hero appears briefly in the slam-bang action comedy.

The Rock (or Dwayne Johnson) is Beck, a bounty hunter assigned to retrieve a wise-cracking double dealer played by Seann William Scott (Stifler in the American Pie movies), who is on a treasure hunt deep in the Brazilian jungle.

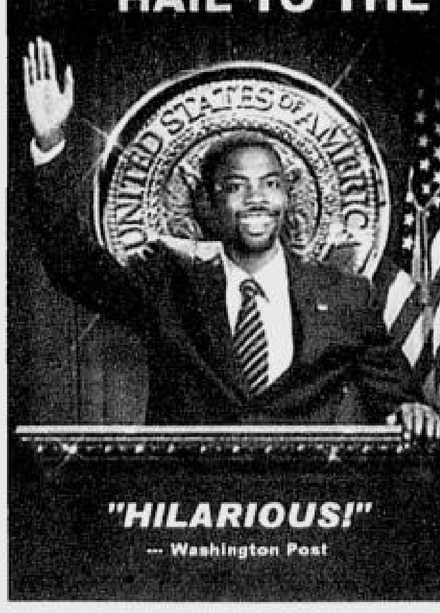
The Rundown features The Rock in a series of jaw-dropping fight scenes, including an eye-popping rumble in the jungle with our very own Ernie Reyes Jr., Fil-Am martial arts champion.

Simultaneously in Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cag. de Oro

NOW SHOWING NATION-WIDE!

THE ONLY THING WHITE IS THE HOUSE

HAIL TO THE CHIEF OF COMEDY



"HILARIOUS!"
--- Washington Post

"CHRIS ROCK rules!
--- Fox News Channel

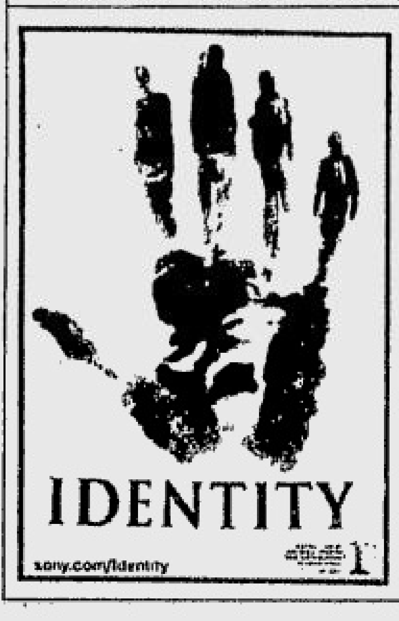
HEAD of STATE

Chris Rock stars as Maya Gilliam, a Washington D.C. neighborhood Alderman, who's about to be red-lined out of his job. But after the untimely death of the party frontrunner, Gilliam is plucked from obscurity and thrust into the limelight as his party's nominee -- for President of the United States.

NOW SHOWING
EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

UIP VIVA AYALA CINEMAS XV

MTRCB RATING ▶ R —18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.



Special Halloween Presentation!

A SMART, SCARY THRILLER

What if every choice we make was already decided for us? What if there really were no coincidences in life and our destinies were already predetermined?

From the producer of the **SCREAM** movies, comes **IDENTITY**, a smart, mind- bending thriller with a disturbing twist.

Ten strangers with secrets are brought together in a motel on a rainstorm. A limo driver (John Cusack), an '80s TV star (Rebecca DeMornay), a cop (Ray Liotta) who is transporting a killer (Jake Busey), a call girl (Amanda Peet), a pair of newlyweds and a family in crisis, all take shelter at a desolate motel run by a nervous night manager.

Relief in finding shelter is quickly replaced with spine-chilling fear as the 10 travelers die, one by one. They soon realize that, if they are to survive, they'll have to uncover the secret that has brought them all together.

SCREAM! The TERROR begins OCT29

ALL DIGITAL SOUND
AYALA CINEMAS
PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 BELPHEGOR	1 HEAD OF THE STATE	ArtFilm 1 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 THE RUNDOWN 2 00, 4 15, 6 30, 8 45, 11 00	THX 1 THE RUNDOWN
2 THE RUNDOWN	2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	2 THE RUNDOWN 12 45, 3 10, 5 40, 7 40, 9 45	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 FREAKY FRIDAY 1 25, 3 20	2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER 12 30, 2 30, 4 30, 6 30, 8 30, 10 30	Onstage REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30	3 FREAKY FRIDAY
4 HEAD OF THE STATE	4 MATCHSTICK MEN		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 HEAD OF THE STATE 12 25, 2 35, 4 45, 6 55, 9 05, 11 15	4 BELPHEGOR
	5 UNDERWORLD		GUARANTEED SEATS MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER 1 25, 3 20, 5 15, 7 10, 9 05, 11 00	5 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
	6 THE RUNDOWN			
	7 FREAKY FRIDAY			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to **2333**. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD
2 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
3 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE
4 GOLD (DTS ES) FREAKY FRIDAY
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
6 GOLD (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) AMERICAN PCYCHO
8 UTANG NG AMA
9 THE SUSPECT
10 BELPHEGOR

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA ①②&③
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 UTANG NG AMA
2 THE RUNDOWN
3 KIKAY

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 UTANG NG AMA
2 BELPHEGOR
3 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE RUNDOWN
5 BUGBOG SARADO

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 KIKAY
3 UTANG NG AMA
4 THE RUNDOWN
5 BOSS'S DAUGHTER
6 BELPHEGOR

M Star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004
1 THE RUNDOWN
2 UTANG NG AMA

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 FREDDY VS. JASON

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL. INC
tel 930.9515
1
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21
1 THE RUNDOWN
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 UTANG NG AMA
6 BUGBOG SARADO
7 (DTS) BELPHEGOR
8 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
9 (DOLBY) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364-3781
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 UTANG NG AMA
4 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN
5 BELPHEGOR
6 (DOLBY) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
7 (DTS) THE RUNDOWN
8 KIKAY
9 KISKISAN

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 (SDDS) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 (DTS) UTANG NG AMA
4 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
5 KIKAY

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 UTANG NG AMA
2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 (DTS) BELPHEGOR
4 KIKAY
5 (SDDS) THE RUNDOWN

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 RESERVE

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR
Lords LALAKE
Jennet RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE RUNDOWN
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 BUGBOG SARADO
4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
2 BELPHEGOR
3 KIKAY
4 UTANG NG AMA
5 BUGBOG SARADO

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 KIKAY
2 UTANG NG AMA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta
MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 UTANG NG AMA
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) UNDERWORLD
4 (SDDS) RUNDOWN
5 (DTS) BELPHEGOR
6 THE SUSPECT
7 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0626
1 UTANG NG AMA
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 (DTS) THE RUNDOWN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 UTANG NG AMA
2 (DTS) MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
4 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 UTANG NG AMA
2 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
3 (DTS) MATCHSTICK MEN
4 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 BASIC
2 MEDALLION
3 (DOLBY) 2 FAST 2 FURIOUSE
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 MEDALLION
3 (DOLBY) INNERSENSES
4 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 (DOLBY) MEDALLION
2 (DTS) AMERICAN PIE THE WDDING
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) BUGBOG SARADO
2 KIKAY
3 (DTS) UTANG NG AMA
4 THE RUNDOWN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 (DTS) HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
4 BUGBOG SARADO
5 TREK

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 UTANG NG AMA
2 BUGBOG SARADO
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 THE RUNDOWN
2 MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
3 UTANG NG AMA

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 AMERICAN PIE THE WDDING
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 (DTS) BUGBOG SARADO
4 (DOLBY) THE SUSPECT

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHAY
2 UTANG NG AMA
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 BUGBOG SARADO
2 MATCHSTICK MEN
3 THE RUNDOWN
4 UTANG NG AMA

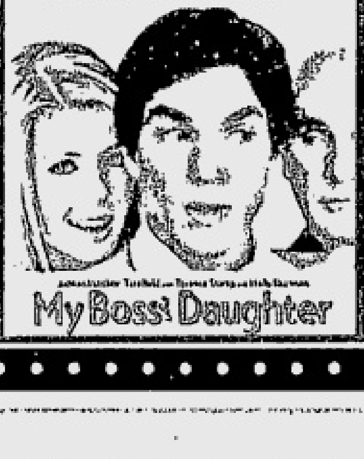
Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03
1 (DOLBY EX) THE RUNDOWN
2 THE SUSPECT
3 (DTS ES) MATCHSTICK MEN
4 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121
1 HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES
2 THE SUSPECT
3 (DOLBY) THE RUNDOWN
4 (DTS) MATCHSTICK MEN

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

Festival Supermall
Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85030-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice


There are some things you just don't do
My Boss's Daughter

NOW SHOWING

Lou Bonnevie rocks on Halloween

BONNEVIE

DIMITRI Productions and Forum Entertainment present "Rocky Halloween" on Oct. 31 at the Forum on the 3rd level of the Podium.

The show will feature pop-rockster Lou Bonnevie and her band, under the musical direction of Toto Gentica.

Lou's special guests are Jet Pangan of the Dawn, Cookie Chua of Color it Red, and Maegan Aguilar.

Other celebrity friends are also expected to grace the concert, which also happens to be a celebration of Lou's birthday.

"Rocky Halloween" will have a dash of the classic '70s music, a sprinkling of Euro rock from the '80s and a jigger of pop and alternative music from the '90s, plus the current hits and acoustic favorites.

The Podium is on ADB Avenue at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City.

Tickets, at popular prices, include free drinks. For reservations, call 637-2630 to 31 or 897-6991.

Legendary club brings party to the NBC Tent

SHOW TIME

ON OCT. 31, Big Fish, Addict Mobile and Axe bring to all partyphiles the much-awaited dance music event—the Cream Halloween Ball at the NBC Tent, now on its fourth year.

Dance music fans rejoice as the world-renowned Cream banner flies over Manila again.

The UK superclub brand Cream is one of the most famous dance clubs around the world, known for its superstar resident DJs, awesome CD compilations and fab parties. Cream is the stuff of legends.

For the party this year, the NBC Tent will be transformed into a modern house of horror. Big Fish resident DJ TC will begin the night by playing never-been-heard tracks gathered during his recent US tour.

Big Fish will be flying in house music's living legend, DJ Danny Rampling, from the UK to treat clubbers to his distinct and energetic sound. Rampling is a renowned producer, club owner and DJ.

The Cream Halloween Ball promises to be the most lavish Halloween party of the year. Come in your most wicked Halloween costume because lots of prizes from Addict and Axe await you.

The Cream Halloween Ball is presented by Addict Mobile and Axe in cooperation with Cuervo, Wrangler and Gold's Gym, and supported by Preview Magazine, Tower Records, Music One, RX 93.1, NU 107, Joey@92.3, Lemon and 2BU.

RAMPLING

Gates open at 10 p.m.

Tickets are P500, P250 for Smart and Addict Mobile subscribers and guests who present any Axe product at the door. The show is free for those who sign up to subscribe to Addict Mobile.

Tickets may be bought at Tower Records, Music One and selected Girbaud outlets for P400. The event is for the benefit of the Positive Action AIDS Foundation.

Maksim, The Piano Player...

From page C2

Mel Bush—the same man behind violinist Vanessa Mae—discovered Maksim, and everything just fell into place for the talented Croatian.

"The Piano Player" has turned platinum in places like Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Maksim's Manila promo tour is also presented by Joey Rhythms 92.3, The Discovery Suites, and The Yupangco Music Group. The event is produced by Asian Events and EMI Philippines.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	BUGBOG SARADO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	UTANG NG AMA
B	RUNDOWN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BUGBOG SARADO
CINEMA-2	FREAKY FRIDAY
CINEMA-3	MATCHSTICK MEN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SUSPECT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
CINEMA-6	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-7	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-8	KIKAY (R)
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUNDOWN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BELPHEGOR
CINEMA-12	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-14	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
CINEMA-15	UTANG NA AMA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-1	UTANG NG AMA
CINEMA-2	BUGBOG SARADO
CINEMA-4	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	UTANG NG AMA
Ali 2	BUGBOG SARADO
Ali 3	UNDERWORLD
Ali 4	RUNDOWN
Ali 5	BELPHEGOR
Ali 6	THE SUSPECT
Ali 7	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER

ARANETA COLISEUM

OCT 27	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 29	UCAP 7-STAG DERBY
NOV 2	PBA: SHELL VS. PUREFOODS
NOV 10	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY
NOV 12	NCA NATIONAL 8-STAG DERBY

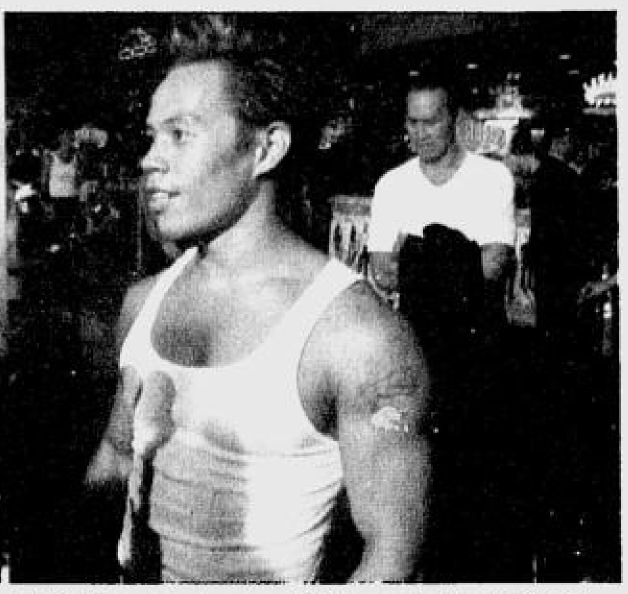
Opens Dec. 23 DISNEY ON ICE "Beauty & The Beast"

BUY YOUR TICKETS EARLY TO GET THE BEST SEATS!

Call TicketNet at 911-5555

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
BRITTANY MURPHY
DAKOTA FANNING
They're about to teach each other how to act their age.
Uptown Girls
OPENS OCTOBER 29

THE ROCK calls Walken weird and wacky and asks, "How do you edit that?"


ERNIE Reyes Jr. wonders if Walken even knows "that I did my last movie with him."

Christopher Walken moments

From page C8

but he answered (Seann does his best Christopher Walken voice impersonation), 'I'm sad.' So I asked again, 'Why? What's wrong? Why are you sad?'

"'It's my birthday, I'm in Los Angeles and I'm all alone.'

"'Oh, happy birthday! Is there anything we can do?'

"'No. I'm just sad.'

"Then Chris looked at me and said, 'It's not my birthday.'

"'What?!?'

"'I do that all the time. I guarantee you that by noon, in a couple of weeks, they'll bring out a cake.'

"So a couple of weeks later, I saw him and I went, 'Hey. Chris, how are you doing?' And he said, 'I'm really sad.'

"I don't know if they ever brought him a cake. But it was funny."

Director Peter Berg

"It was great to be directing one of my heroes. Sometimes, it was hard to believe that it was really happening. I grew up watching his films. Chris' first film was a movie called 'The Anderson Tapes' with Sean Connery when Chris was about 18 years old. That is one of my all-time favorite movies.

"So to be able to direct Chris Walken was one of those weird moments in life when you're not really sure that it's really happening. I felt like I was in a dream state most of the time, directing Chris, talking to him, and going into his trailer, writing lines and hearing him practice them.

"My favorite Chris Walken moment in the film is when he talks about the tooth fairy. I'll tell you how it happened. I wasn't sure how that would play internationally because I don't know what cultures believe in the tooth fairy.

"Originally, I did a little writing on the characters and I wrote a speech for him about Winnie the Pooh. Do you remember when Winnie the Pooh comes over to Rabbit's house to try to get some honey? But Rabbit doesn't want Winnie the Pooh in his house. Winnie the Pooh comes in anyway and he eats all of Rabbit's honey and he messes up the house, breaks the furniture and eats so much honey.

"When Winnie tries to get out through the window, he gets stuck. So for weeks, Winnie the Pooh's ass is stuck in the window. That's all Rabbit sees—Winnie's ass.

"We wrote a speech with Chris Walken talking about an incident like that. He would say, 'I feel like I'm Rabbit. And Winnie the Pooh just came into my house and he ate all my honey, broke all my furniture and all I see is his big ass in my window. I want Winnie the Pooh's ass out of my window.'

"It was a really funny speech. Chris Walken liked it. He called me from New York and read me the speech. He was practicing. It sounded really funny. But two days before we were going to film the scene, we got a call from the lawyers at Universal Pictures saying, 'There's no way you can say this about Winnie the Pooh. Disney owns Winnie the Pooh. You can't do it. They'll sue us!'

"I said, 'What? No way! Oh my God! What are we going to do?' Chris, who likes to prepare, has practiced his lines so many times. He is ready to do Winnie the Pooh. Then I thought, what about the tooth fairy? I called up the lawyers and asked, does Disney own the tooth fairy? In addition, they said, 'No.'

"So I revised the whole thing quickly and faxed it to Chris. Then I called Chris. I asked, what do you think about the tooth fairy? He was quiet for a long time.

"And all of a sudden I heard over the phone—Chris started laughing (Berg's turn to imitate Walken, this time that laughter, also a gentle kind, that can come in spurts), 'ha ha ha,' and he said 'I like it.'

"It's my favorite scene in the movie."

The Rock

"Chris is a great actor, one of the best of our time. He helped me and gave me advice, which was really cool. I need that help.

"The monologue about the tooth fairy really showcases his ability. He has a rhythm, which a writer wrote about in a review. He said something interesting: 'How does a film editor edit Christopher Walken's dialogue?' Because Chris delivers his lines in such a way that he seems to put in the punctuation wherever he wants to. He makes everything kind of wacky and weird in his own pace. How do you edit that?"

Ernie Reyes Jr.

"I also did 'Pool Hall Junkies' with him. It's funny that the last two movies I had worked on had been with Christopher Walken.

"He's an amazing guy. It was great for me to do movies that are obviously action oriented and yet be able to work with actors like him. He has been one of my acting idols for quite sometime.

"I had only one scene with Walken (in 'The Rundown'). We didn't really say too much to each other.

"It's interesting because when I did 'Pool Hall Junkies,' we sat in the make-up trailer at the same time. We were looking at each other. We were sitting on the makeup-chairs, nodding to each other, getting made up but not really saying anything to one another.

"He's a very private guy. I was just looking and saying, wow, this is amazing.

"So it was like déjà vu because on the set of 'The Rundown,' it was the same scenario. We weren't saying anything but were sitting again on the makeup chairs next to each other, looking at each other.

"I was thinking, I wonder if he even knows that I did my last movie with him."

Waiting for Walken

From page C8

order to ask him questions.

I was prepared to be dramatic if I failed to trip him on the red carpet.

I was practicing to holler, "Mr. Walken, I flew all the way from the Philippines to ask you these questions..."

I also had his centerfold photo that I could grab from my suit jacket pocket for him to sign while I was interviewing him and holding the tape recorder and taking his pictures and writing notes while keeping him chained to the red carpet posts...

Your correspondent had to multi-task to seize the moment, ya know...

Three hours passed. I had taken pics of Ernie Reyes Jr. and family, of my shoes beside the "Enquirer" place card, of The Rock, Seann William Scott, even *Aling* Toyang, visiting from Manila. I had concluded that not one of the passing barely-dressed babes (yes, even the numerous chicks who mistook me for Brad Pitt, Benjamin Bratt—or Danny de Vito) could compare with my babe Jane at home—and no sign of The Walken. I stood for hours under the heat and no Mr. W!

MR. W

The last TV crew left. The janitors came to sweep. I thought it was safe to presume that Chris W snubbed me again or bypassed the red carpet. Famished but feeling like Brad Pitt/Benjamin Bratt/Danny de Vito all rolled into one, I went home.

At least I could tell my editor that I tried.

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AYALA CINEMAS

When there's smoke…

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

> 'Where there's smoke, there's fire'—or burning beds, or stars being raked over hot coals, or 'tinapa, daing, tutong'!

PRACTICALLY every week, a show biz scandal breaks out in the media, involving either sex, money, marital discord, viciously competitive stars, parent-child rifts, mudslinging, and both grand and petty larceny.

At first, the rumors are vigorously denied by the stars involved. They swear on a stack of tabloid newspapers and fan mags that the rumors aren't true, or involve other celebrities.

But, in eight cases out of 10, the initial reports that the stars involved have been denying "to death" for weeks ultimately turn out to be true.

The former presidential daughter has been dallying with the comedian-politician.

The singer-actress did have a child, not a tumor.

The singer is playing beautiful music with the diva.

That's why show business writers love to say, "Where there's smoke, there's fire"—or burning beds—or stars being raked over hot coals—or *tinapa, daing, tutong*, take your pick!

Often, the initial reports are blind items, which result in the frequent repetition of that other famous show biz saying, "The blind leading the dumb"—referring of course to the rumormongers on the one hand, and gullible show biz fans on the other.

The blind items are a cop-out, but only up to a point.

Sometimes, most facts are specified, down to the initials of the names of the people involved.

Otherwise, when details are purposely kept vague in deference to or in fear of the powerful celebrities involved, other stars own up to the sins actually committed by other luminaries, thus leading to the exposure of four malefactors for the price of two. Where there is smoke, everybody who's generically guilty chokes!

Boob-tube booboos

HOST; How did you like the movie?

Guest: *Maganda! Wala kang itatapon na artista!*

(*Kahit pangit yung pelikula, bakit mo naman itatapon ang artista?*)

***

Host: What's the traffic situation there at this time of night?

Field reporter: *Sira ang mga* street lights *dito, kaya delikado sa mga motorista na sa gabi tumatakbo.*

(*Motoristang tumatakbo?*)

***

Host: Any other problem?

Field reporter: Due to the bad traffic situation here, *nahihirapan tumawid ang mga* pedestrian people.

(Pedestrian *na*, people *pa!*)

***

Host: As the spokesman of such an important government official, how do you see your job? Is it difficult? What are the requirements?

Guest: As (ah) a spokesman, you (ah) have to clearly (ah) articulate the (ah) views and (ah) opinions of (ah), (ah), my (ah) boss!

(Ah, so!)

***

Host: What are your tips to our viewers for fashionable dressing this summer?

Guest: It's not so much the design but the cloth. Cotton is needed in the warm of summer!

(How—poetic!)

***

Host: Will you introduce our next musical guest?

Co-host: Gladly! Ladies and gentlemen, please give a big applause for this wonderful singer to entertail us!

(*Ano raw?*)

***

Host: Where do you go to relax?

Guest: To the zoo.

Host: Why there, of all places?

Guest: Because I like watching the animals and their lovable antiques!

(One animal's antics are another creature's antiques!)

***

Host: What is your favorite drama show on TV, and why?

Guest: I watch (title of program) because *maganda po* yung moral *nung* lesson *doon!*

(*Talaga, ha?*)

***

Host: Are you a serious person? Your friends say you're quiet most of the time. Why?

Guest: I'm just thinking on the back of my mind!

(Like Juan Tamad?)

***

Host: You have just seen the psychiatric patient whose case we're discussing today. What is your analysis of the case?

Guest: Well, I think that crazy man is probably insane!

(Brilliant diagnosis—brilliant!)

Sony Ericsson announces the Z600 mobile phone for QuickShare™ imaging, messaging and gaming

IN CONJUNCTION with Sony Dreamworld in Paris, France, Sony Ericsson announced the Z600, a clamshell mobile phone with complete imaging and messaging capabilities. The Z600 is the first GSM/GPRS clamshell phone with exchangeable front and back covers and also features an integrated camera and color screen.

Sony Ericsson introduced QuickShare™ with the T610 phone, giving users the smartest, fastest and easiest way to share images over the mobile network or between devices. Two key presses and a picture is taken, six presses and the picture is sent off to someone. The user interface is intuitive and colorful, the display clear and bright and the ways to connect the phone to other devices are many. The Z600 is a true QuickShare™ product, featuring a built-in camera, bright 65,536 color TFD display and a range of easy-to-use imaging applications. With the help of its imaging capabilities, a picture can be taken with only two rapid clicks, and then in four further steps sent by MMS or e-mail. It is also possible to exchange pictures from the Z600 directly over a Bluetooth connection, or even drag and drop pictures to a PC.

The Z600 is distinguished from the growing clamshell product offerings in the market by its stylish shape and exchangeable front and back Style-Up™ covers. These covers, which were designed in cooperation with Sony Digital Design, are available as accessories and come in an array of colors and patterns that shall allow consumers to completely change the look of their Z600, coordinating it with their clothes, car or mood. The theme of personalization is continued on the inside of the phone with the large color display ideal for Style-Up themes, images or wallpapers. The phone comes with preloaded themes matching all standard covers and additional themes will be available for download from the Fun & Downloads section of www.SonyEricsson.com.

A second display on the outside of the phone shows information such as caller ID, time, network and battery status. The Z600 also has a dedicated speaker for the 32-voice polyphonic sound, which reproduces musical ringtones and boosts the sound effects of the mobile games. For the aspiring music producer, there is the Music DJ, feature, a 4-track music creation tool, with which consumers can create their own great-sounding ring signals and also send them to their friends.

The Z600 comes with several enticing embedded games, most notably V-Rally, which is one of the most popular racing games for game consoles. It provides for hours of fun, played either by a single player or racing against somebody over Bluetooth. For maximum flexibility in game downloading, the phone supports both Java and Mophun game engines, opening up for a wide variety of games, both from Fun & Downloads at www.SonyEricsson.com and other sites. The Multi-Action keypad allows for simultaneous key-presses, to for instance move and shoot at the same time. For the devoted mobile gamer, there is a new game console accessory, Gameboard EGB-10, which gives a true console-style feeling to playing mobile games.

"The Z600 has fantastic, easy-to-use imaging capabilities already winning fans in the T610, and also sports a form factor that allows consumers to express themselves and personalize the phone both inside and out, for instance matching the themes inside the phone with the covers", says Steve Walker, Director of Product Marketing at Sony Ericsson.

Weight: 110g	Standby time: up to 200 hours (8 days)
Size: 90 x 48 x 27.9 mm	Talk time: up to 6 hours
Colors: 4 different kits with 2 Style-Up cover designs per kit	

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For further information, please visit: www.SonyEricsson.com

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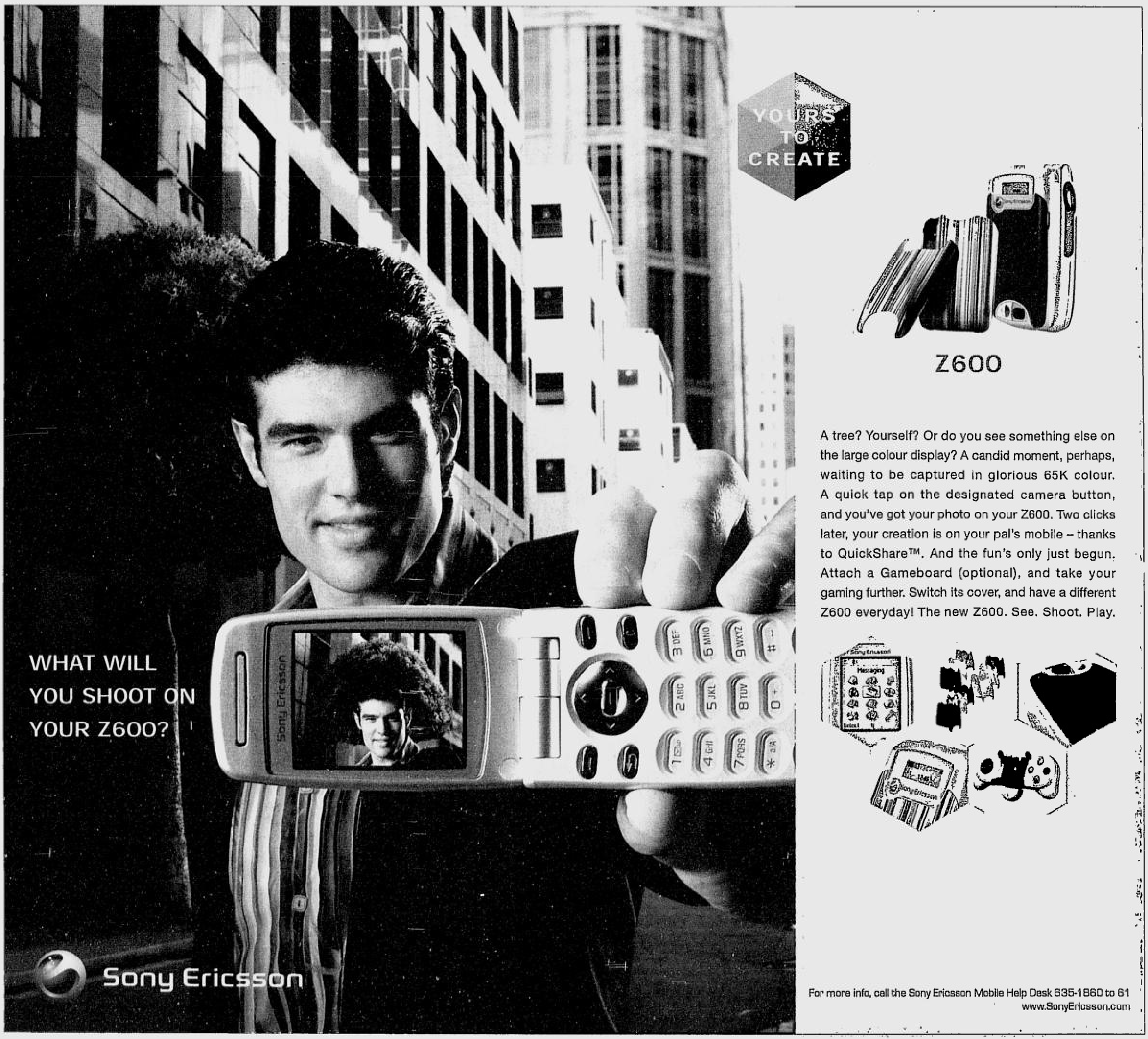

A tree? Yourself? Or do you see something else on the large colour display? A candid moment, perhaps, waiting to be captured in glorious 65K colour. A quick tap on the designated camera button, and you've got your photo on your Z600. Two clicks later, your creation is on your pal's mobile – thanks to QuickShare™. And the fun's only just begun. Attach a Gameboard (optional), and take your gaming further. Switch its cover, and have a different Z600 everyday! The new Z600. See. Shoot. Play.

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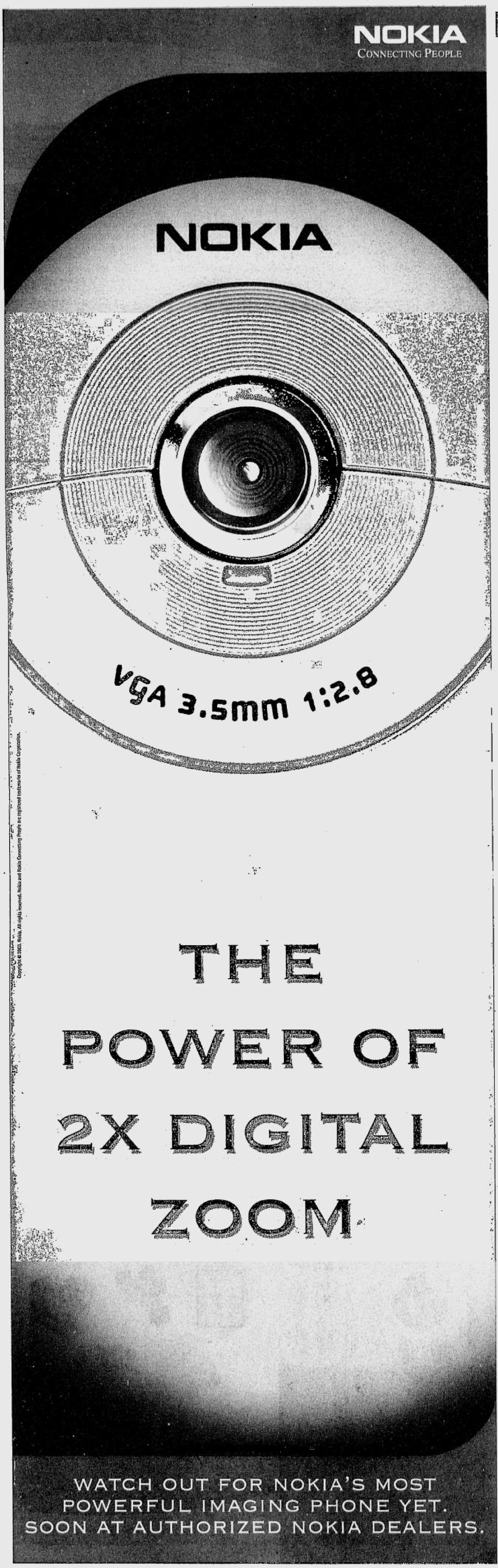

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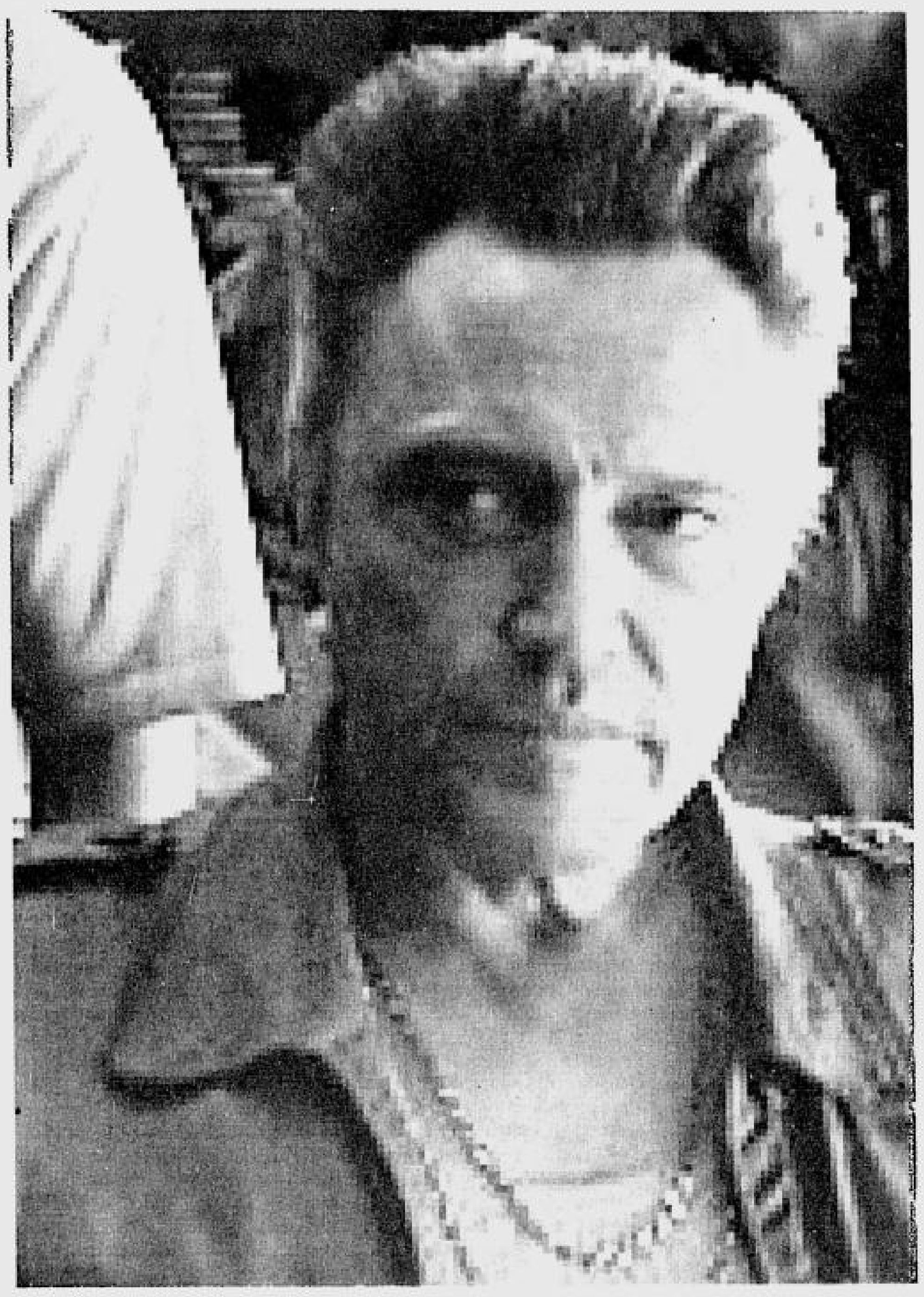

"ONE OF THE GREATEST actors of our generation"

Christopher Walken moments

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

By Ruben V. Nepales Jr.
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—I thought I was finally going to have a chance to interview one of the greatest actors of our generation.

But Christopher Walken proved to be elusive in the interviews for the movie "The Rundown" (*See related story on this page*).

So I did the next best thing. I asked Walken's co-stars—The Rock, Seann William Scott—and director Peter Berg, in separate hotel interviews but all on the same day, and another co-star, Fil-Am Ernie Reyes Jr. in a phone interview a few days later, to give me a rundown. of their experience working with the actor who won a Screen Actors Guild Award and the Bafta, England's version of the Oscars, for his supporting performance last year in Steven Spielberg's "Catch Me If You Can."

In the action-comedy "The Rundown," Walken portrays an evil gold mine owner who rules a village in the Amazon jungle until the characters of The Rock and Seann William Scott stir things up. Just watching him in one scene, where he instructs his heavily-armed, macho *alalay* (aides) to go after The Rock and Scott and then links the hunt to the tooth fairy (yes, you read right, the tooth fairy) is pure guilty pleasure.

"I am the haht in the dahkness!" Walken riffs in that familiar gentle voice that can turn sinister in a millisecond. At 60, Walken, memorable to this day in his Oscar best supporting actor turn in Michael Cimino's "The Deer Hunter" in 1978, can do this tooth fairy scene in his sleep and still make the critics scramble for superlatives.

Even his "Rundown" colleagues were enthralled. Here, in their own words, exclusive to INQUIRER Entertainment, are their favorite Christopher Walken moments:

Seann William Scott

"I only had a few scenes with him. There was one time when I was walking back to my trailer. Chris looked kind of sad. I walked up to him. I asked, 'Are you okay? How's everything?'

"I don't know how to imitate Chris' voice

CHRISTOPHER/ C6

Waiting for Walken

By Ruben V. Nepales Jr.
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—When I was invited to interview the cast of "The Rundown," which included Christopher Walken, I screamed "Louie!"

But before I could device a plan to whisk the INQUIRER Entertainment editor to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and fly him here—pronto!—to LA to meet his favorite actor, I was told that Mr. Walken was no longer participating in the interviews.

So, I did the next best thing. I badgered The Rock, Seann William Scott and director Peter Berg (and later, by phone, Fil-Am actor Ernie Reyes Jr.) for anecdotes about Chris Walken. Nobody could stop me from asking the same question to each of the three guys. Not the eight journalists who were with me in the hotel room. I was driven! I had a mission in life.

In fact, to make sure that I got my question in, I was already asking The Rock, "Tell me about working with Christopher..." even before he could put both feet in the room. I was too busy to notice if my colleagues were rolling their eyes by the nth time that they heard Christopher Walken's name on my lips.

But my Walken-stalking-for-Louie's-sake saga did not end when Walken did not make it to the interviews. No, sir. Did you think I was going to give up right away? I hounded the publicists for a phoner (Hollywoodspeak for a phone interview) with The Great One. And when that didn't pan out either, even after my 2 million follow-up e-mails, I asked the publicists to determine if Walken was attending the premiere of "The Rundown."

When they said that he was attending, I moved heaven and earth to be side by side by side with E! Channel and People magazine in the red carpet arrival media line.

So after a hard day's work for the almighty green bucks, I donned my Brad Pitt suit and headed to the Universal Studios. Lo and behold, I was ushered into the red carpet and told to look for my spot in the arrival line.

And guess what? There was a card on the floor for "Philippine Daily Enquirer" (I'll sue them for mental anguish, humiliation and depression over the misspelling).

So I waited in my *pogi* suit under the sweltering heat until dark descended.

I was ready to detain Mr. W if I had to in

WAITING / C6

Arts/Design LIFESTYLE

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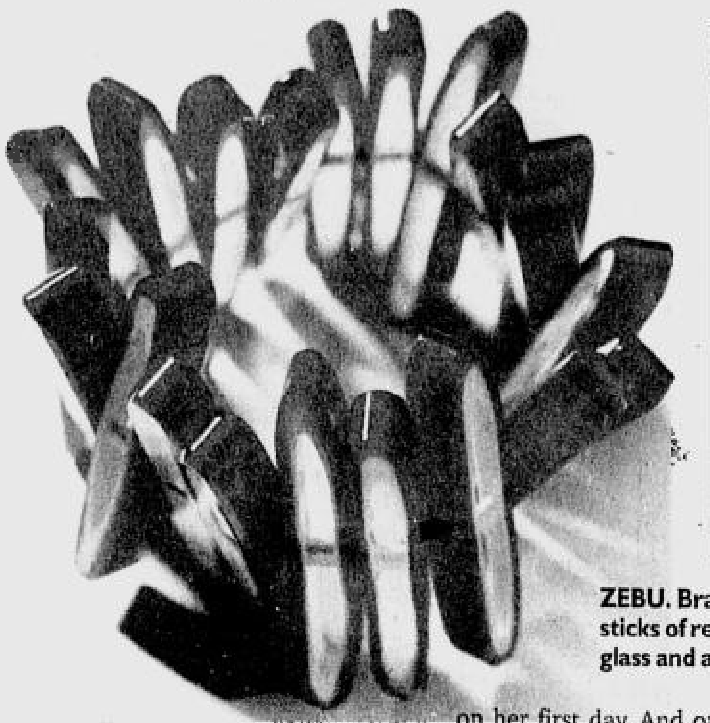
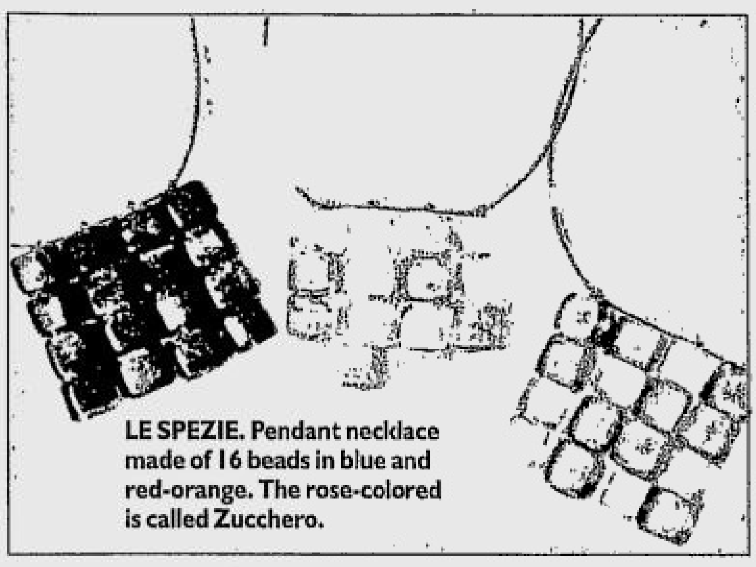
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Subsection Editor **Lito Zulueta**

Murano via Venice reaches Manila

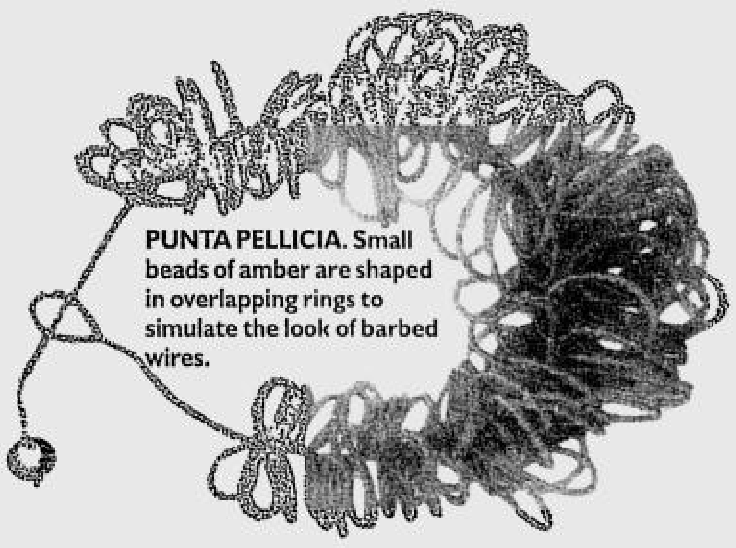
The world-famous Murano glass receives a modern clean look in jewelry designed by two Venetian sisters named Marina and Susanna Sent



ZEBU. Bracelet made of 14 sticks of red and clear Murano glass and an elastic band



LE SPEZIE. Pendant necklace made of 16 beads in blue and red-orange. The rose-colored is called Zucchero.



PUNTA PELLICIA. Small beads of amber are shaped in overlapping rings to simulate the look of barbed wires.

Text by James P. Ong
Contributor
Photos by Jovel Lorenzo

ONE STORMY, flooded September morning a year ago, Clarisse Oben, 32, a lawyer in Manila, found herself, her husband and youngest sister traveling by water bus from Venice to the islands of Murano in Italy—a place known for its centuries-old tradition of making decorative glass objects.

They had just come from Milan and Vienna, on their way to Rome to attend the canonization of Opus Dei founder José María Escriva. Oben was religious, but she was also a woman fond of shopping, and so, in Venice a few days earlier, she found herself looking for the perfect objets d'art to add to her collection.

It was there, along Campo San Vio in Venice and in between the Peggy Guggenheim Museum and the Accademia, that Oben stumbled into a small shop selling the most original glassware—from vases to glass purses to jewelry.

The name of the shop was Marina and Sussana Sent. Oben immediately fell in love with the jewelry and bought a fair amount of them on her first day. And on her second. On her third. On her fourth.

"Until the sales staff told me, there's nothing we can sell you anymore—we've already showed you everything. They then suggested that we go to their studio in Murano, where everything is made," says Oben.

In Murano

Murano glass has been famous around the world since the 14th century. The masters there are known for their bead-making skills and for that glass used in mirrors.

Murano itself is less spectacular than Venice, and it is free from the gaggles of multicultural tourists. And it's not easy to go around looking for a particular place, especially for a glass factory, not because there are too many of them but for the reason that they are closely guarded and famously hidden from potential pirates.

And so it was with great shock that the Sent sisters, in their 40s, welcomed Oben.

"Apparently it was a mistake by the store clerks to give us the factory address in Murano, because they don't really welcome visitors there," she explains. "From the outside, it looked like an abandoned building, but when we went in, there was a courtyard and another building in the back where they created the glass."

The Sents spoke little English. Oben knew no Italian. So they used the "*turo-turo*" (hand signal) system to negotiate the purchase of a few more baubles.

Dealership

By the time she came back to Manila, Oben realized that she had fallen in love with the Sents' Murano jewelry.

"I liked their modern design, their color, the fact that they were very different from all the Murano items. And they are made by artists," she says.

The Sent family has been in the glassmaking business for generations, on both maternal and paternal sides. Susanna, who studied architecture, and Marina, who took up chemistry, worked for their father (who designs glass homeware such as tables and ashtrays) before opening their own firm.

Their works are now sold in the boutiques of the principal museums of the world, including the Contemporary Art of Vienna, but it was around 10 years ago when they first made it big.

It was at that time when the Sent sisters created a necklace they named "Hillary." The gift shop of the Museum of Modern Art in New York picked it up, and it became an overnight hit, eventually spawning imitations.

The design was simple: a strand of loose beads strung together at intervals with nylon fishing line. The way popular bead necklaces using semi precious stones and Swarovski crystals (which, incidentally, are cut and shaped in nearby Austria) are being done now.

MURANO/ D3

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PLDT

Must new architecture 'conform' to the old?

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

AT A NATIONAL gathering of parish priests on church preservation, somebody asked another priest if the new church the latter was planning would look old. Why? It was because his image of the Filipino *simbahan* was Spanish colonial.

God's style in this country is *estampita*-baroque and new architecture just doesn't deliver grandeur of that kind. Should we try recapturing it in a brand-new 2003 structure?

No. Heritage is not exclusive to the Spanish colonial era, nor is it confined to Roman Catholic structures. It extends to all eras of history from pre-Spanish colonial to the recent past. The making of heritage is a constant process. It is being made as we speak.

Churches of more recent vintage, like Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park (early 1950s) and Saint Andrew's Church in Bel-Air (mid-1960s), are bona-fide heritage structures. El Hogar Building in Manila (1920s), SSS Building in Quezon City (1950s), and many of the Makati buildings from the 1960s to the present are heritage structures as well.

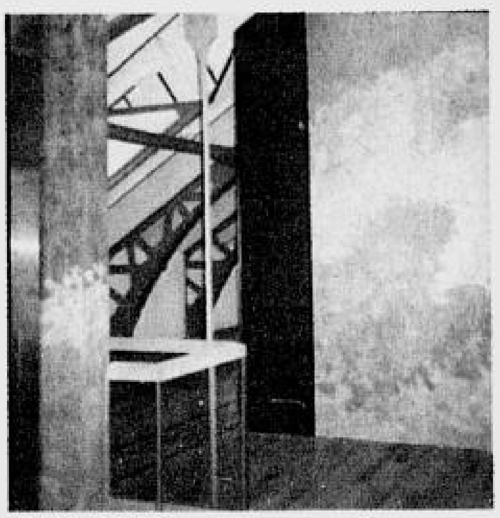
They all deserve, but unfortunately do not receive, the same respect accorded to their Spanish colonial predecessors.

Architecture is born at a specific, historic time. Each building is the product of the design style and of the construction technology existing at the moment of its birth. So why would someone construct a building in 2003 and make it look like it was built 200 years ago?

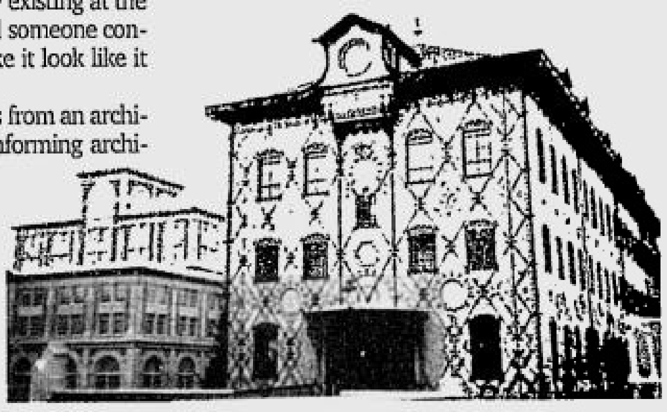
A large part of the answer stems from an architectural misconception called "conforming architecture."

Unfortunate

"Conforming architecture" got its unfortunate start in this country from the Intramuros Administration construction guidelines that require new structures within the Walled City to replicate what originally stood on its site. If the new structure could not faithfully reproduce the original, a set of architectural design guidelines ensured that the new structure would "conform" to the Intramuros look.



PARTITIONS float under exposed 19th-century cast-iron trusses to provide work and conference areas in Nestlé France.



THROUGH successful architectural re-use, all of the buildings that used to be a 19th-century chocolate factory near Paris are now the modern-day headquarters of Nestlé France.

Many architects, not trained to think heritage, got the misconception that the Intramuros guidelines were applicable nationwide. Someone coined the phrase "conforming architecture." That was where the problem began.

So "conforming" architects first follow the shape of an old *bahay na bato*. Next, they veneer adobe on concrete hollow block walls on the ground floor, throw an arch here and put up a set of pilasters there.

The iron grilles that cover windows are pencil-thin, no longer the heavy round bars of old because they are no longer available. *Kapis* windows line up above fake *ventanillas*. A steep roof of cement tiles caps everything.

Few are aware that today's roofing tiles are basically Japanese in design. Their profile is radically different from the authentic hand-made terra-cotta *tisa* of the old *bahay na bato*.

No standard

To what standard should the building "conform?" There is no standard. If the new architecture should conform to anything, it is to the *bahay na bato* or to the Spanish colonial church. It should duplicate the original faithfully.

However, most new structures built to look old are far from faithful. The new structure is a pastiche, a bad mimic of an old building that trivializes heritage.

A perfect example of a trivializing structure is the genre of fast-food structures mushrooming all over the country, in places like provincial church courtyards, street corners in Intramuros, and town plazas.

The free-standing fast-food outlets built in "Filipino heritage" style are concoctions of stucco-like walls, arches, bell towers, and tile roofs that are as reflective of Filipino heritage as the taco stores designed in the image of Calif-Mex architecture strung along California highways. If these are accepted as monuments to California heritage, please let's not follow the example and accept the "Filipino heritage" style as a monument to ours.

You can't replicate heritage architecture on a fast-food time frame and a throwaway budget. It was never done that way, although many of our "conforming" structures try to do it that way and look it.

When heritage structures were built generations ago, each was one of a kind, crafted with care, hand-made to last forever. The materials, technology, and craftsmanship of 200 years ago are gone. We build things differently today. We have a different aesthetics.

It's the aesthetics that needs working on. The aesthetics should say, "Old is old, new is new, and keep them separate."

Keeping old and new separate means that if you are putting up a new building near a heritage one, rather than mocking the heritage structure with a poor pastiche, follow the building code limitations carefully, but be honest and construct a high-tech structure that reflects the architecture and technology of 2003.

Pseudo-heritage

It would have been more architecturally honest to have one of those supermodern, colorful, glass-enclosed fast-food stores in the shadow of the Vigan Cathedral bell tower rather than the pseudo-heritage structure built there with its own small bell tower. But strict heritage legislation prevents taking the completely modern architectural approach.

The best answer is the fitting of a store into the interior of an old Vigan building while maintaining its exterior intact, keeping signage discreet, and preserving the heritage streetscape in the way that it has always been.

Preservation laws are strict about maintaining the original look of heritage districts. Fast-food stores in Europe take this approach when setting up in a heritage location. It is called architectural re-use.

Keeping old and new elements separate within a single structure makes interesting architecture. Not only that, it highlights what is old by showing how it has been updated by modern architecture. It doesn't try to mimic anything.

"Conforming" architecture is the root of so much bad architecture. Copying details from old buildings in an attempt to make new clones of the old really doesn't work.

Take a look at the many new buildings on campuses that fall for the conforming trap. Their modern takes on their landmark campus halls not only come through as pseudo, they actually trivialize and take attention away from the landmark structure.

Is it worth the attempt to try and build a new building that looks old? I mean, doing it authentically old, not just pastiche-old. That is pretty close to impossible these days.

So why not be honest and build a new building that really looks new, that reflects today's architecture and technology, one that conforms to our times?

E-mail comment and feedback to afvillalon@hotmail.com

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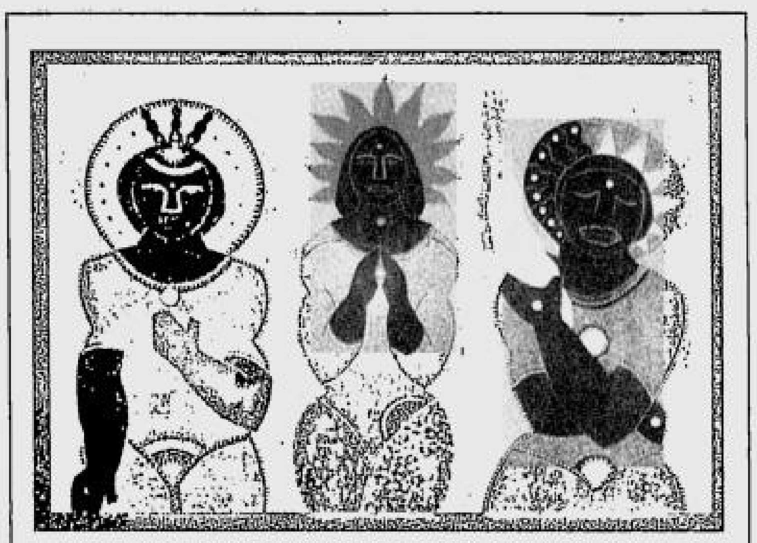


WOMAN triumphant in the sculptural pieces "I Am, My Heart," "Light and into Silence" and "Flowing Light"

Iconic imagery of female spirituality

By Constantino C. Tejero

SANDRA Torrijos celebrates womanhood with art derived from pre-Christian imagery and Marian iconography.

A sense of exaltation pervades her first solo exhibit in the country after six years, "Illuminations," until Oct. 31 at the Artlane of Ayala Museum (old Makati Stock Exchange, Ayala Avenue, Makati City).

All the pieces show corpulent females in various attitudes of worship, contemplation, nurture, joy, serenity, praying, dispensing of blessings. There's one with a martial stance, and another in a posture of loss.

In "Welcoming the Universe," in charcoal on paper, the woman has hands upraised like a benign deity. In another charcoal, "Blessing," is another woman with upraised hands but now with a Pharaonic aspect and encased like a mummy in garments with a lotus motif, obviously derived from Egyptian art.

"A Woman Warrior," charcoal, depicts a giantess, like a sumo wrestler. "Blessing the Hills," charcoal, shows another giantess on a hilltop, her outstretched arms scattering rays of light like seeds sown to the ground—a modefied version of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal.

The sculptural piece "Reclining Woman Guardian" recalls the Reclining Buddha. "Dance," charcoal, depicting the profile of a joyous nude, could be one of the pagan dancers of Matisse or early Picasso.

The watercolor pieces, some with hazy resemblance to Byzantine icons, have such titles as: "Great Mother," "All Power," "Enthroned." While the sculptures are titled "Peace Be with You," "Flowing Light," "Prayer for Healing."

While these are patriarchal assumptions, now it is the woman who reigns and dispenses favors and universal harmony. The whole show then is a celebration of female power, both physical and spiritual, from pagan times to the present. It is an ode to fertility and healing, peace, light and abundance—in other words, the triumph of matriarchy.

Organic symbol

The figures are rendered in simplified forms: bold outlines with some smudging for the charcoal; staining in pastel tones for the watercolor; primitive masks for the sculpture. All have ample physiognomy evocative of Fernando Botero's rotund figures.

The artist explains this corpulence as her way of "*mapakita ko ang* power *ng* women, which has a rootedness in the earth and is connected to heaven."

Each figure has what resembles a halo of radially arranged leaves, dagger-like flames, or simply a circle of light. The artist says it is the crown chakra, which everyone, man and woman, possesses.

She explains leaves symbolize growth, thus creativity. But leaves can fall, as she has shown in other artworks (not in this exhibit).

"The connection is up there, but the energy can also dissipate," she says.

This energy she graphically shows as countless acrylic dots on her wood sculptures. Here pointillism is used not merely as a pictorial technique but as organic symbol as well.

"Have you ever seen those points of light moving in space, *na naglulundagan*?" she asks "From my studies of pranic healing, they're energy globules. These dots are my representation of that energy."

Esoteric colors

She uses mango wood for her sculptural pieces, ¾-inch thick. With numerous electrical tools, from jigsaw to planer, sander, to engraver, the light wood is shaved, shaped, then stained with mahogany to darken it. The outlines are etched, then filled with innumerable dots of mostly white, and gold, blue, green, orange, red, yellow, purple.

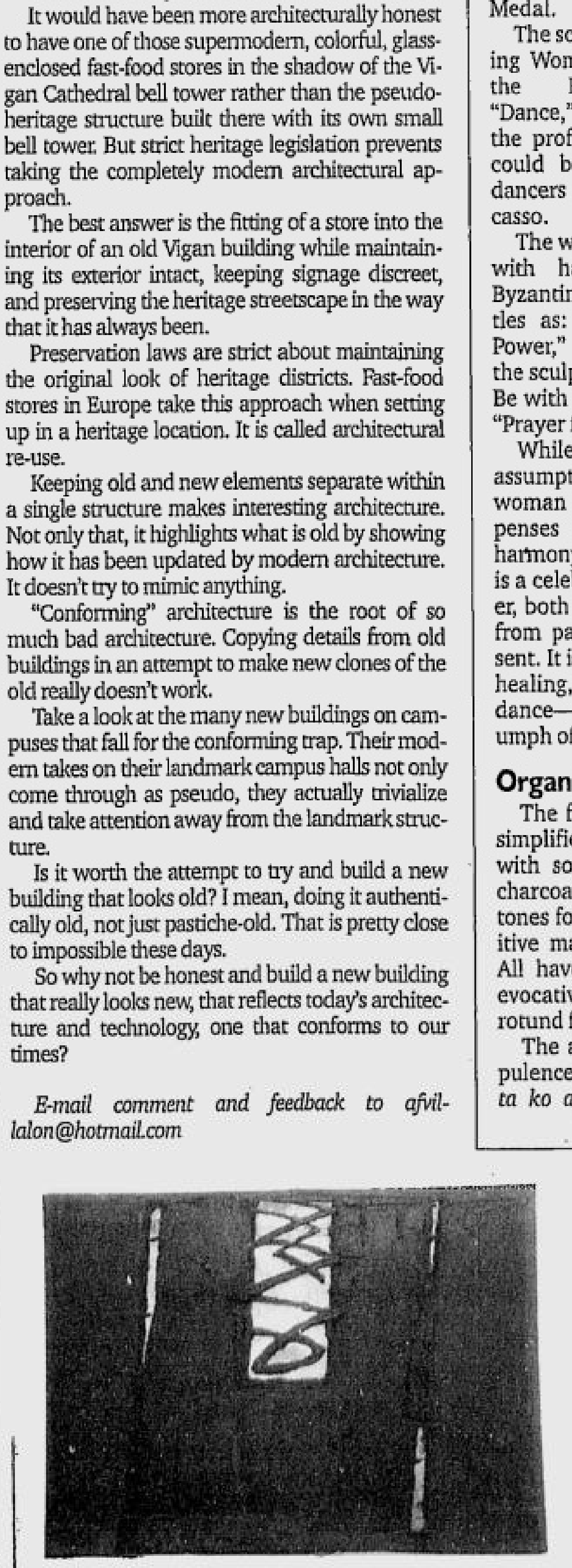
The process is quite meticulous it puts a heavy toll on her. A regular piece could take three weeks to finish.

"*Mahirap sa mata*," she says, "especially when you' re spacing the dots. You can't keep on it for 30 minutes, because your vision blurs, *hindi mo na makikita ang* dots."

Her preference for bright or light colors has a spiritual dimension as well: "I refrain from using dark colors. I used to be an expressionist. I started with *patay na kulay. Parang in-aamag na nga ang* watercolor *ko, e.* Then, when I transformed as a person, my colors also transformed. I use light colors to show hope, empowerment. Esoterically, dark colors connote sickness, melancholy, anger, pain.

"We have a responsibility when we exhibit our works. The world is in a bad shape right now, from what we have read in the tabloids. When someone is in pain, *hindi na pinapalala. Kasi* affected *ang mga tao sa nakikita nila—so bakit ko pa sila aapektuhan ng* negativities?"

She summarizes her artmaking: "I am striving for an art that would uplift the soul toward the Divine."



WEST Gallery features Dan Raralio's latest impasto paintings in "Copper Field," on view on Oct. 30-Nov. 11 at Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. The focus on the materials and painting process suggests a free association of images and negates the idea of the subject as a limitation. Photo shows Raralio's "Eastern Hoard."

Murano via Venice . . .

From page D1

SOAP. Necklace with pieces of glass paste covered with crystal made by hand. The chain is made of steel.

In Manila

An updated version of the Hillary necklace is just one of the many Sent jewelry now on exhibit in Gallery Nine in SM Megamall.

"We decided to launch the line in a gallery because it's not fair to just put them in a store," explains Oben, who eventually asked an Italian *ninong* to negotiate with the Sent sisters for exclusive rights to sell their jewelry in the Philippines. "They think of themselves as artists, not just jewelry designers. The jewelry are all handmade and not one item is the same as another."

"The problem with making glass in Venice is that it is easy to be copied because all glassmakers have the skills and technical competence to work with glass," one of the Sent sisters once explained in an Italian newspaper. "It's the idea that counts."

Oben started selling Sent jewelry last December, with 200 small pieces that were instantly picked up by friends. And because the thing with jewelry—as any woman would know—is that you can never have enough of them, Oben has been enjoying repeat orders.

Now, she also imports bigger and more unusual designs, like glass bags. When the time is right, Oben also wants to sell a blouse made of Murano glass that she saw in the Sent shop.

"I'm really more a clothes person than a jewelry person," she says, not the least surprised by how she's ended up selling jewelry instead.

It seems that for a person simply fond of shopping, adding Murano glass jewelry to the cart simply reflects good taste.

Marina and Susanna Sent jewelry are on exhibit in Gallery Nine (4/L SM Megamall A; 6877302 and 8992704) until Oct. 29. Curator is Beth Montecillo.

ERNIE Sta. Ana holds his fifth solo exhibit, "Leaves in Bloom," in Gallery 139 (Art Space, Glorietta 4, Makati) until Oct. 31. Capturing leaves in every size, shape and color, the artist plants his subjects in polished, painstaking layers so that they resemble a gentle shower or an explosion of foliage.

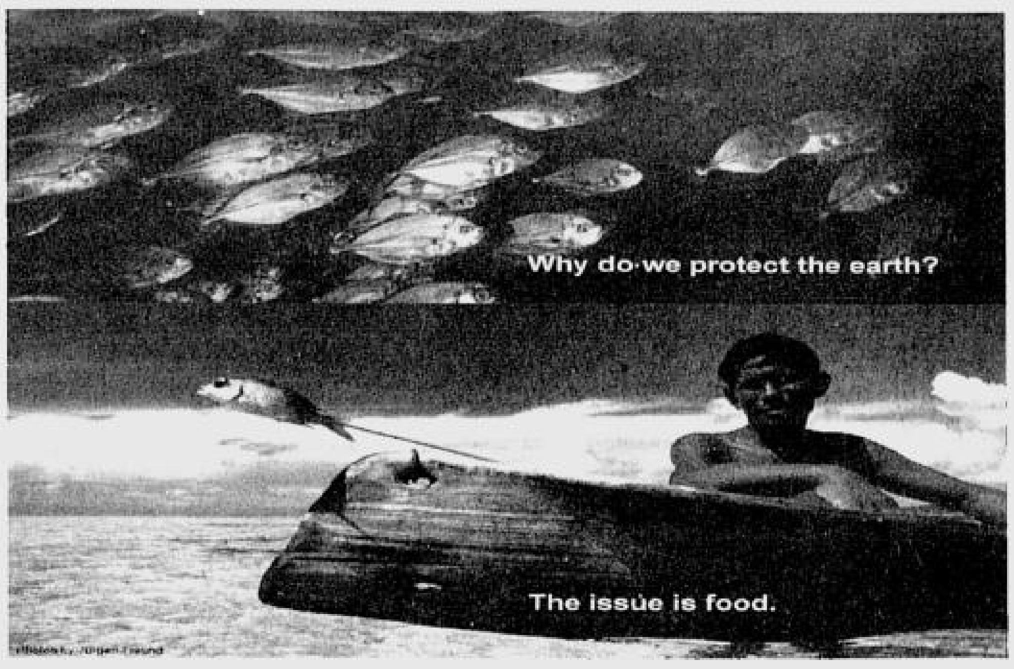
Davao painter Sillada returns to roots

POET-painter-critic Danny Castillones Sillada will receive the Pasidungog Award for the Visual Arts of Cateel, Davao Oriental, tomorrow, when the town celebrates the centennial of its foundation. He will receive the award together with Veronica Veroy-Troadio, also an artist.

The two are holding a joint show, "Back to Back," at the Youth Center Bldg., Poblacion, Cateel, Davao Oriental. Rep. Cora N. Malanyaon and the Cateel government are sponsors.

A Manila-based artist, Sillada has just held a one-man show at Ayala Museum in Makati. He has also released a limited edition of his selected poems, "Songs of My Troubled Land." The artworks and poems show his existential struggle and haunting images of war in Mindanao.

Sillada was educated at Queen of Apostles College Seminary in Davao, Ecclesiastical Faculties of University of Santo Tomas in Manila, and Ateneo de Manila University.



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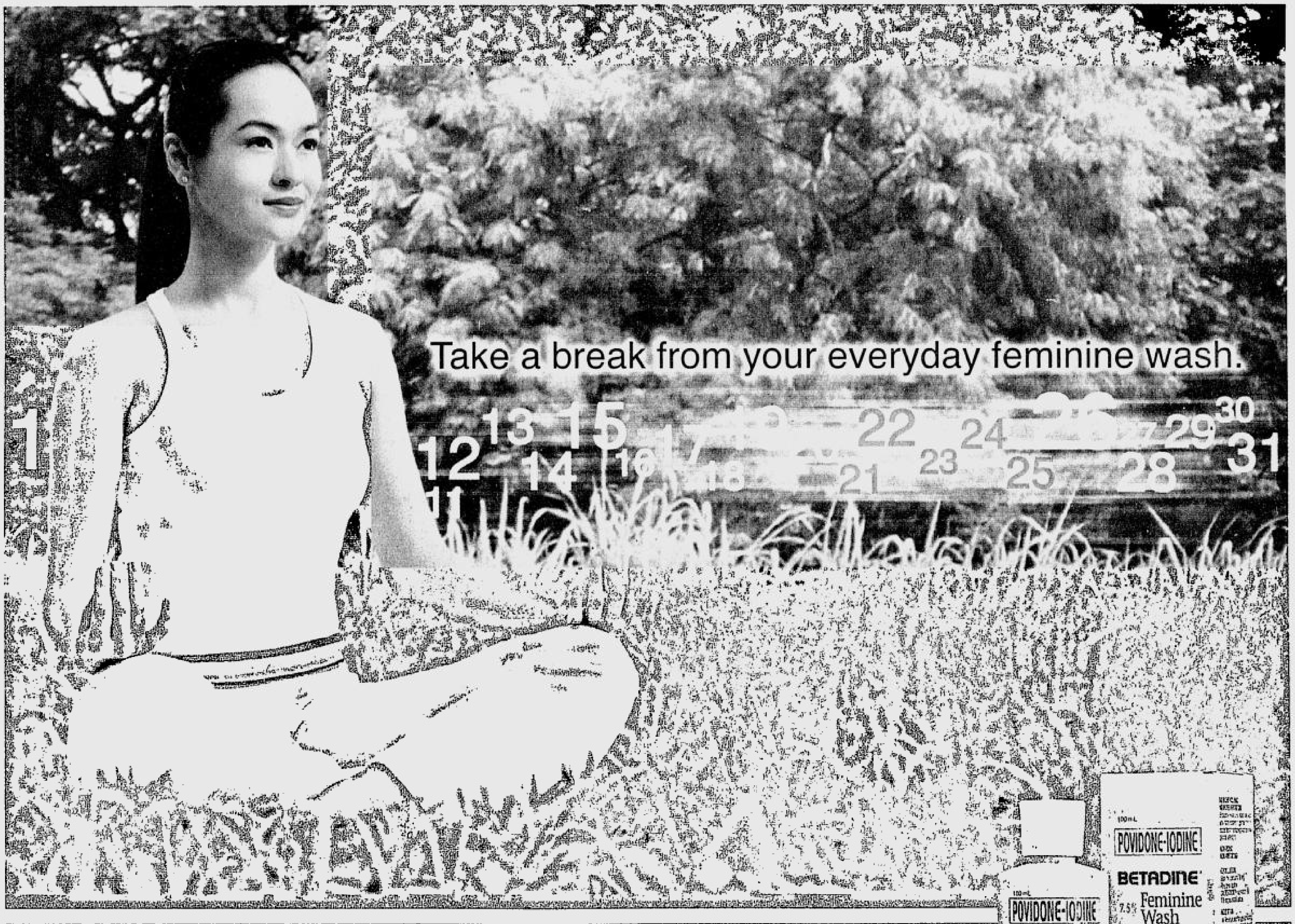

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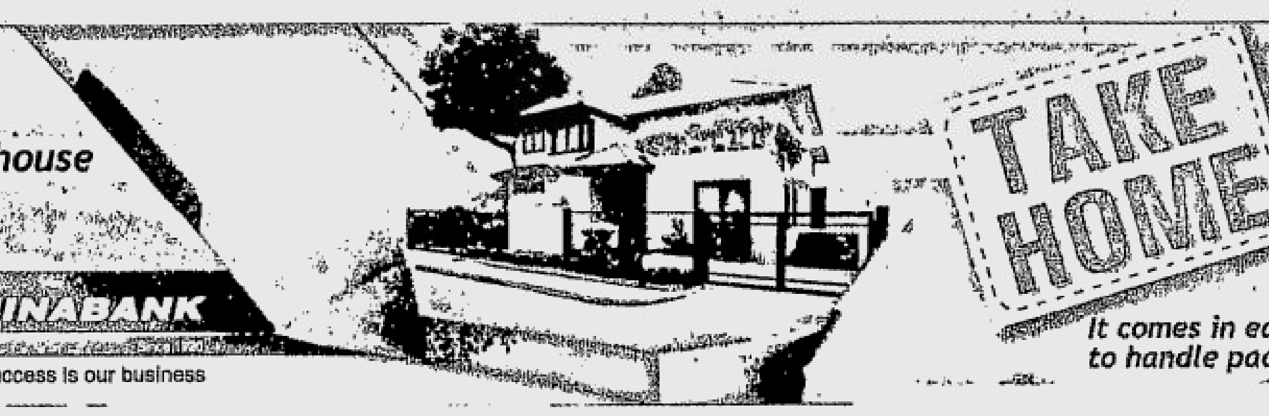
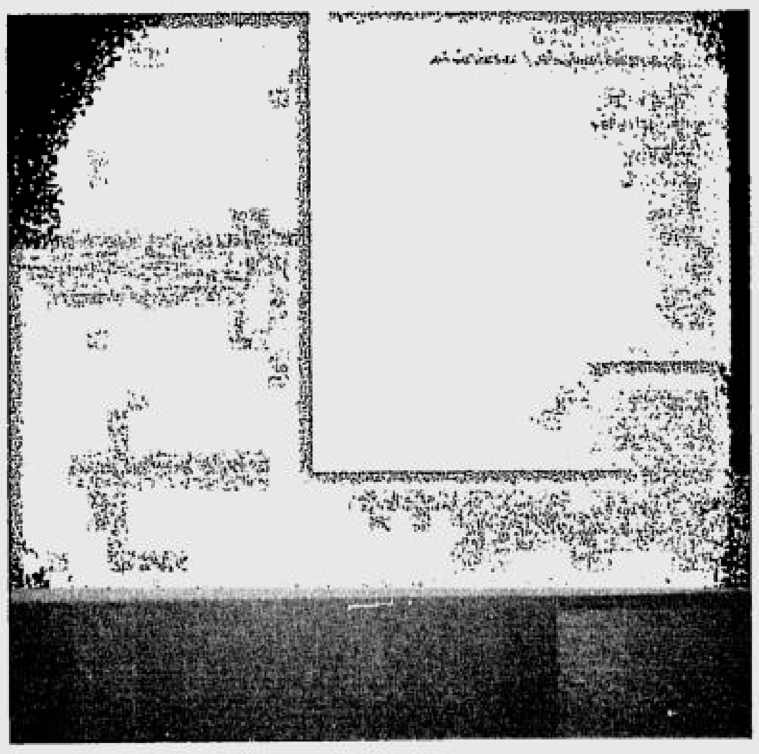




"BUTTERSCOTCH 2," by Karina Baluyut

BALUYUT AND TIOSECO

Zen and zest in abstract art

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

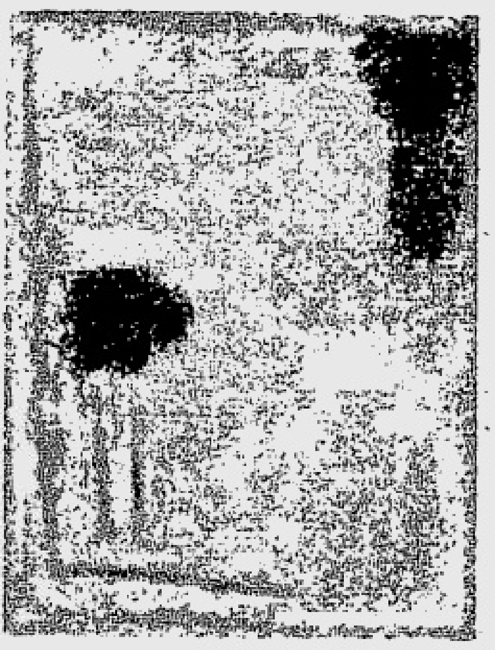
JUDGING from the washes of colors in canvases that dominate gallery shows today, we can safely say that abstract art is bound for a second coming, no matter the claim of stalwarts of realism and expressionism.

The shift did not of course happen overnight. It could have been the result of radically changing views on modernity, which is often equated with lifestyle and individuality. Indeed, an emerging generation of artists is more enamored with evolving tastes that border on Orientalism and identity rather than the rigorous exploration of form and substance in figurative modes.

Two such artists—both young, innovative and experimental in approach—are Karina Baluyut and Gino Tioseco. They have taken the cudgels for abstraction in their show entitled "Dessins et Peintures," (Designs and Paintings) at the Joaquin Galleries (2/F, 371 P. Guevara St. and Montessori Lane, San Juan).

Their combined output of some 60 pieces in various media—acrylics, watercolors, pastels, and mixed media—bear the influence of senior abstractionists whom they identify with, including those from their group, the Guevara Group of Artists.

Tioseco's past works were mostly portraits and landscapes of a markedly expressionist character. Baluyut, on the other hand, who is exhibiting for the first time, is a graduate of architecture and her works, though not entirely abstract, are indicative of an evolving abstract sensibility.



"ESPEDAIRE Street," by Gino Tioseco

It is well worth comparing the two artists. Tioseco now prefers to work in the purely abstract mode, bearing the influence of Chinese artists Kao and Wu-Ki, and, admittedly, of Albor and Lao. Tioseco's imagery is spare and subtle in its economy, albeit not entirely minimalist in spirit. His brushwork recalls the Zen-like configuration of Lao, with dark blobs pervading the entire grainy field, further highlighted by bright-colored streaks emanating from the hazy inscapes.

Tioseco is obviously fascinated with showing the changing of the season and the topography, as well as evoking moods while traversing these points of journey. He also manipulates the idea of freezing motion in "Traveling Without Moving," where stillness, a Zen ideal, is the true essence. Or the idea of waiting for nature's providential acts in "It Can't Rain All the Time." Tioseco is thus a modern chronicler of personal voyages more psychological and intimate than physical and nondescript.

Compared to Tioseco's simple but beguiling imagery, Baluyut's is marked by a spirit of zestful experimentation. Owing to her architectural background, Baluyut works in patterns neatly laid out as they momentarily seize her imagination. And she obviously prefers to work on a bigger area to give vent to her own impulses, which she keeps in check with rigorously designed forms. Though she has a suite of abstract pieces like Tioseco's, which she, in turn, has painted in flaming red, she also has more subdued pieces, particularly still lifes—odds and ends of elegantly designed bottles and jars captured in various groupings and configurations.

Easily, the more striking works are her "Black and White series," where squares of varying sizes are superimposed and layered on each other, virtually leaving no empty space on her canvases. This is the suite where her passion for pre-ordained design comes off best, a neat balancing act.

But the best of Baluyut's works can be found in the center piece of the show, the large "Butterscotch 2," a multi-hued, richly-layered series of bands that captures the emerging spirit of the new breed of artists who foists gnawing intimacy on the viewer. It offers a perplexing combination of technical precision and painterly expression.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

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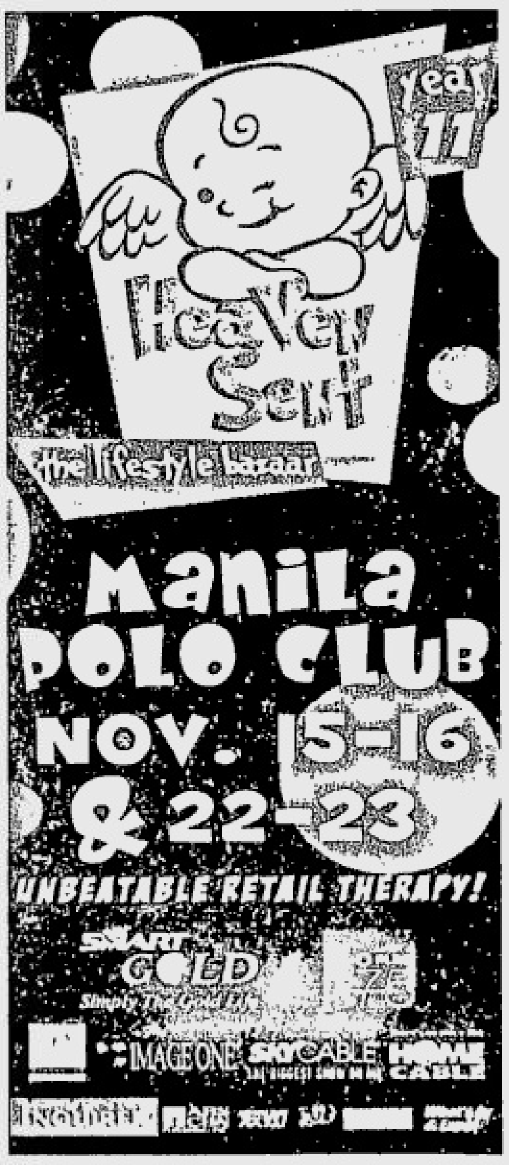

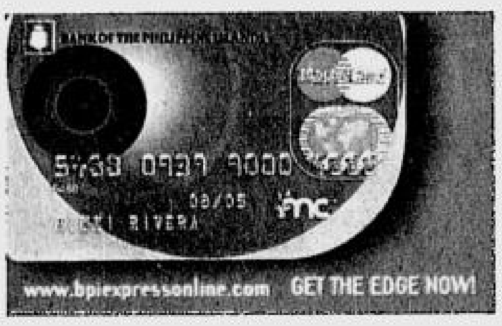
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Baldemor's prodigious art

By Constantino C. Tejero

MULTIFARIOUS artist Manuel Baldemor has traveled to over 50 countries since 1975, staying in one country for no briefer than a month. These sojourns not only enrich his art but also sustain an exchange of cultures between his country and the world.

Every time he leaves, he takes along his artworks with Philippine motifs for exhibition abroad. And every time he returns, he brings a cache of visual records of themes and cultures he has imbibed abroad.

His recent show in Glorietta's Art Space depicting ethereal cherry blossoms came from his visits to Japan. The nine paintings in "Timeless Portugal" at Hotel InterCon, which ran simultaneously with his show of 30 8" x 12" photos of Portugal at Rustan's, came from his trips to the Iberian Peninsula.

Now in the massive show "Momentum," presented by Gallery Y until today in the Art Center at Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, the artist is celebrating 10 years of his European sojourns.

Here are 109 pieces in acrylic, watercolor, pen and ink, and mixed media jostling one another on the numerous walls of the gallery. Here are picturesque landscapes teeming with jewel colors, subtle textures and wide-ranging styles.

The more impressive of the pieces would include: "Images of Valencia," in mixed media, dominated by gold; "Ancient Acropolis," mixed media, in pastel tones of yellow and gold; "Stonehenge" I-IV, in watercolor, pen and ink; "Chillon Castle," mixed media, with its olive-green ground, ochre walls and orange sky; "Dezaley Levaux," a greenish impression in mixed media; "Prime of the Morning in Lithuania," diaphanous in watercolor, pen and ink; "Dormition Cathedral," "Kremlin Cathedral," "The Archangel Cathedral" and "The Church of the Deposition of the Robe," all in acrylic impasto; "Tanguely's Fountain" I-IV, watercolor, in blue, gray, old rose; "Dubrovnik in Blue," mixed media; "Amsterdam by Night," acrylic impasto, in various tones of blue dotted with orange, yellow and gold; "Schones Munchen, Deutschland," impasto, in pastel hues of yellow, orange, gold, green, blue, pink, purple; "Grand Place of Brussels," impasto, greenish-gold ornate façade with white cottony clouds on aquamarine sky; "Historic Gdansk," mixed media, in pastel wash of pink and green; "Rhineland," acrylic impasto, very fluid impression in blue and green; "The Sacred Rocks of Meteora," acrylic impasto, charcoal-gray rock formations crowned with burnt-sienna houses against a turquoise landscape and sky.

Foreign influences

Here the world traveler proves to be a master stylist (from impressionism to realism to cubism to Oriental) and supreme colorist (from monochrome to all the colors on the palette).

He reveals his favorite artists to be just as wide a variety, from Paul Klee, Picasso, Chagall, Turner, Winslow Homer, to Manansala, Malang, Botong Francisco, H.R. Ocampo, Tabuena, Yonzon, Ang Kiukok.

Of Klee, he says: "When I was in Switzerland and Germany, *tinutukan ko talaga siya*. I studied his works and even copied some of them *hanggang na*-Filipinized *ko*. *Hindi naman ako* genius *na masasabi kong* original *na* original *ako*. I've had my influences. *Hanggang ngayon* I consider myself under training."

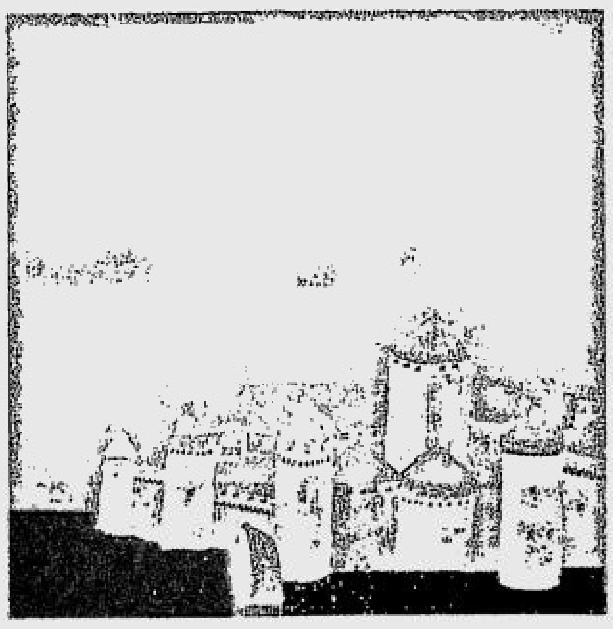
He says his pieces on Stonehenge had been inspired by sculptor Henry Moore's drawings of the mysterious stone arrangement. "Stonehenge is really sculpture," he adds.

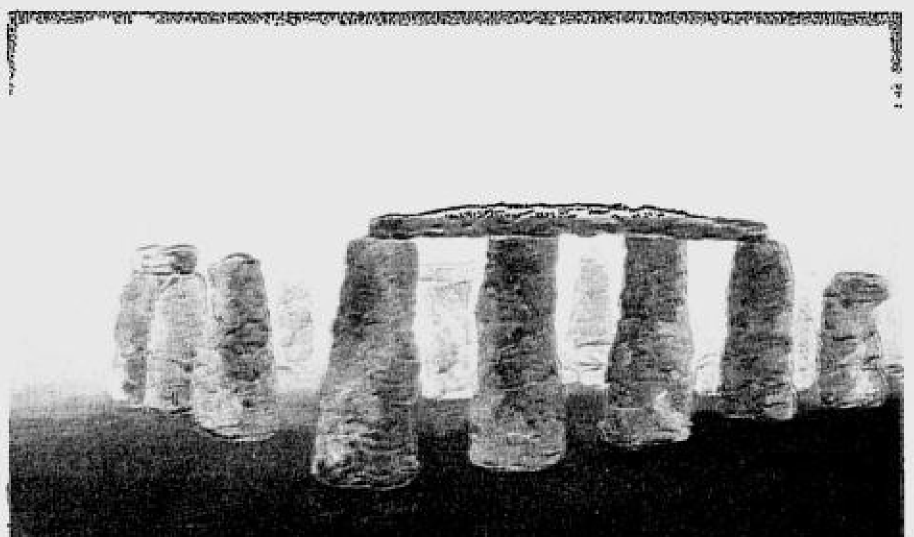
Of Malang: "Some of our works look similar. *Pero may kanya-kanya tayong* color signature. *Ang* color *ko talaga* free-wheeling, fiesta."

Of Japanese woodcut artist Munakata: "His works are very graphic, spontaneous. *Doon ko nahiram 'yun*."

He has improvised a tool to create the look

BALDEMOR'S/ E2





"CHILLON Castle." At far right: "Mysterious Stonehenge"

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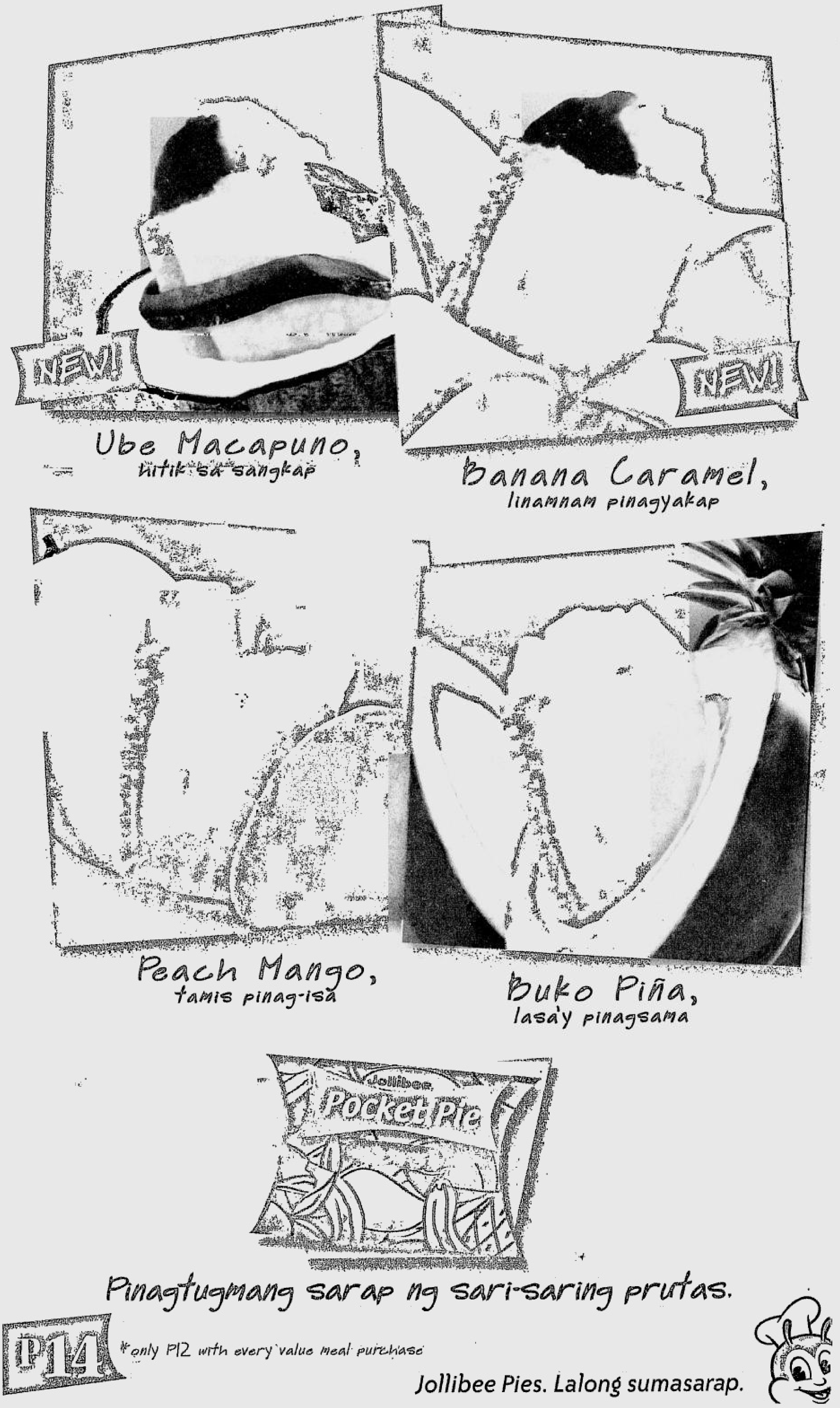


Baldemor's prodigious art

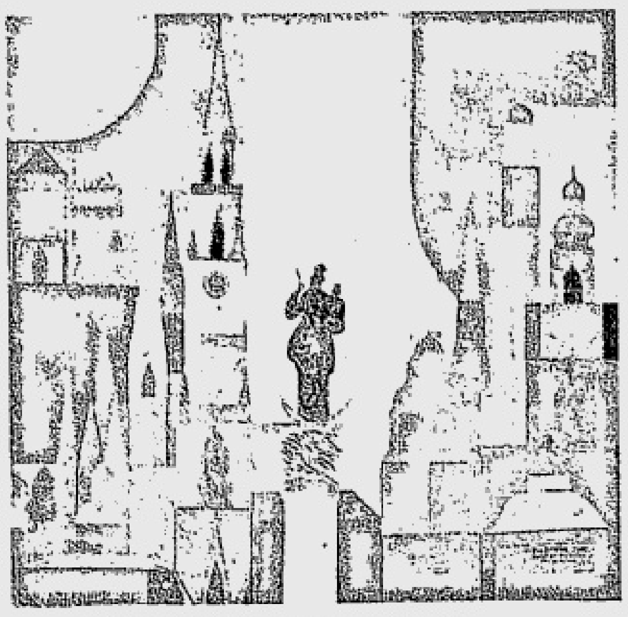
From page E1

of woodblock in many of his paintings. A palette knife he filed till it was toothed, and this he uses to scrape the modeling paste to get the effect of fine parallel lines running across the canvas.

When he travels, he brings along some 100 rolls of films. At 36 shots per roll, this would amount to 3,600 shots, which he spends in one country alone. He uses photos to get the details right for his paintings. Otherwise, he says he paints directly on the canvas or paper without any studies.

"I work only under available light," he reveals. "While most artists are comfortable working at night, I cannot paint at night. *Problema ko sa kulay.* I cannot get the color I want under artificial lighting. I work religiously every day, 7 a.m.-4 p.m., *tuloy-tuloy*, from Monday to Friday."

Thus, the prodigious output, and not only in one medium, style or genre. He holds 5-10 shows a year here and abroad, with an annual output of 500-1,000 artworks.



"SCHONES Munchen, Deutschland"

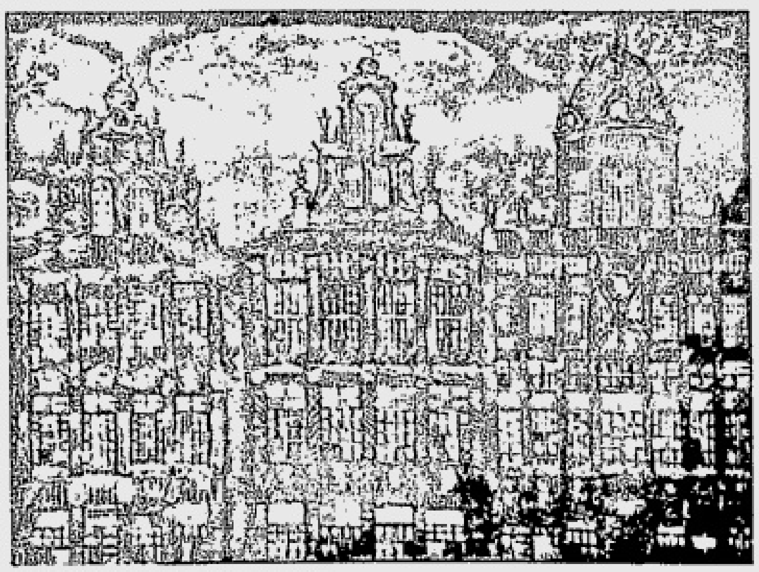
International artist

A Fine Arts graduate from University of Santo Tomas, Baldemor is at once painter, graphic designer, printmaker, ceramicist, collage artist and, being the son of Paete, sculptor.

He has done some painted sculptures (as what his younger brother Angelo is doing with wood high relief). He paints the piece with five layers of acrylic, then cover it with oil.

Watercolor is his usual medium, though. "I find it the most exciting," he explains. "I use it often in my travels because it's *mabilis*, quick-drying, precise, spontaneous. And you can use more imagination and experimentation with it. Unlike with oil, for example, where you have to wait for a week for it to dry so you can apply your next layer of paint."

Being a Unicef artist for 14 years, his art has been circulating all over the world. One can find it in greeting cards, stamps, even in the packaging of a toilet paper.



"GRANDE Place of Brussels"

But he is most proud of the 5 ft x 12 ft mural he did for the United Nations headquarters in Vienna. Titled "Thanksgiving," it depicts a Philippine landscape, using Pinatubo lahar sediment for texture. It has been installed on the lobby of the UN office, and that makes him proud to be a Filipino.

"Momentum" is his 121st solo exhibit since 1972. This, by the way, is a record for Filipino artists.

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Chef Gene Gonzalez exhibits new art works

CHEF-ARTIST Gene Gonzalez is exhibiting his latest works in 'Joie de Vivre: An Optimistic Look at Life, Love and Luck," on Oct. 25-Nov. 5 in Galerie Astra (2/L, LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Makati City).

A member of the Blumentritt Art Group, Gonzalez continues to surprise art critics and connoisseurs with his trademark bold palette.

Gonzalez started painting figurative works in the 1980s and later turned to abstracts. In the '90s, he returned to figurative painting with a difference, infusing his works with hyperrealism.

In his flower series, Gonzalez shows his penchant for bold strokes and colors.

The exhibit will feature a mix of his works, stressing his love of color, love and life.

Some of the new works employ Chinese brush strokes. Uncharacteristically spare (in black and white), these paintings are a marked departure from his usual works. In spirit they are minimalist.

Proceeds from the exhibit will help fund the Lingkod ER Foundation, which supports people in need of hospitalization.

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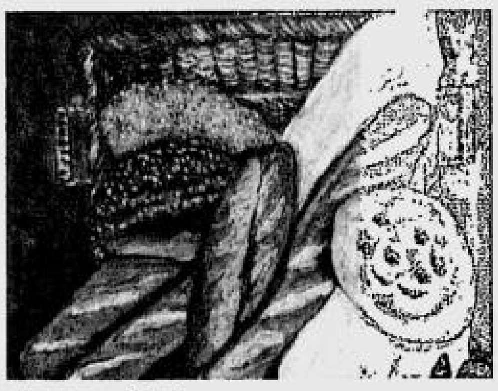
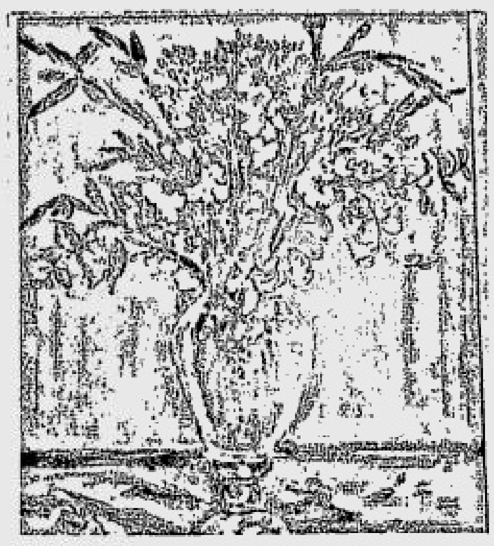


"BREAD of Life"



"AN INSPIRATION from Van Gogh"

PLASTIC SURGERY UPDATE *Dr. Carlos I. Lasa, Jr.*

Are Breast Implants Safe?

The female breast has long been recognized as a potent symbol of femininity. Through the centuries, a lot of effort has been made by the makers of brassieres, corsets, swimsuits and other women's apparel to enhance the size and appearance of the breasts. Women have also had their breasts injected with various substances, such as silicone oil, paraffin, and fat, all of which are ineffective.

More than one million women around the world have undergone breast implant surgery over the past 30 years. For women considering breast augmentation, the paramount question still being asked is: ***"Are breast implants safe?"***.

Since 1992, there have been more than 20 important studies that were undertaken to determine whether breast implants cause breast cancer or connective tissue disorders (CTD) such as rheumatoid arthritis, scleroderma, and systemic lupus.

The overwhelming consensus of researchers is that there is NO scientific proof that breast implants cause breast cancer or CTD. There was no association found between breast implants and the aforementioned diseases.

The conclusions of these scientific studies have been supported by prestigious medical groups, such as the American Cancer Society, American Medical Association, American College of Rheumatology, and the British Department of Health.

The major concern regarding breast implants has to do with local complications, such as capsular contracture and implant rupture. Capsular contracture refers to the unnatural firmness of the breast caused by tightening of scar tissue around the implant, occurring in 5 to 10% of patients.

Despite these concerns, many women decide to undergo breast augmentation to improve their appearance and improve the way they feel about themselves. After the surgery, almost all report an increase in self-confidence.

It is very important that patients exercise care in selecting a surgeon. It is best to choose a surgeon who has had specialized training and experience in plastic surgery to help them properly evaluate the risks versus the benefits of breast augmentation surgery.

Dr. Carlos I. Lasa, Jr. trained in Plastic Surgery at the University of the Philippines-PGH Medical Center, and completed advanced training programs in Cosmetic Surgery in the U.S.A. at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center and the Institute of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. For more information, please call 374-6092, 0917-4696945 or 0917-8229014.

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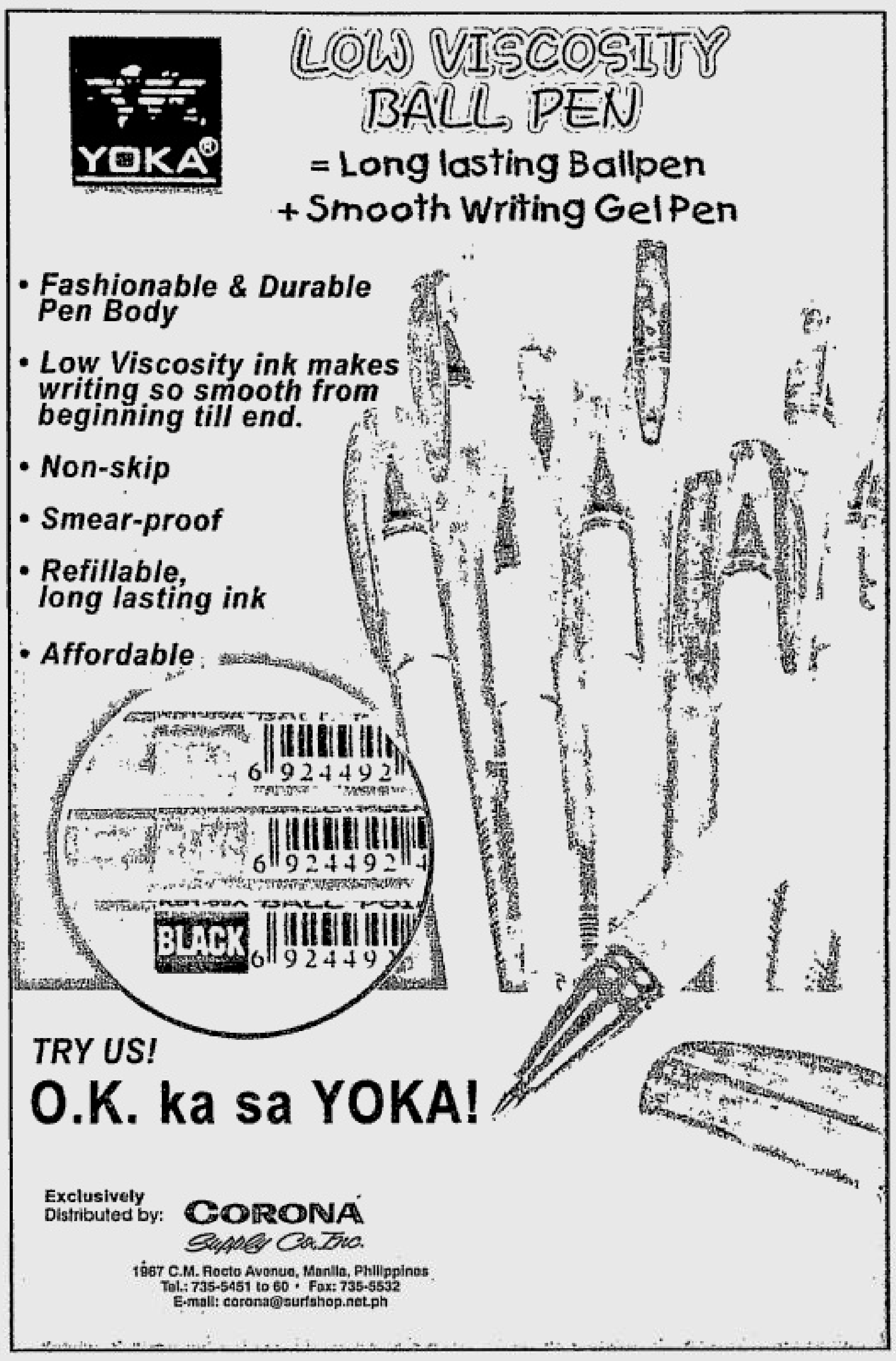
THE GALLERY of Westin Philippine Plaza presents Philippine Export Zone Authority director general Lilia de Lima in her first solo exhibit, until Nov. 10. The artist exhibits over a hundred oils and acrylics on flowers, butterflies, fruits, birds and landscapes.



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FEDERATION of PHS Alumni Associations Foundation president Angelo David, PHS Class '65 president Renato Alarcon, trustee Marcial Morales Jr., PHS principal Dr. Imelda Macaspac, Fr. Melchor Sitchon and Romeo Aquino at the CFL Training Center inauguration rites. At far right, PHS65 president Rene Alarcon receives CEU donation of computer tables.

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Power company lends muscle to Laguna public schools

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

THIRTY-EIGHT teachers from seven public schools in Laguna can now rely on a caring corporate partner to help them provide quality education.

The CBK Power Company hosted recently a five-day Mentoring the Mentors Plus Seminar at the NPC Camarin guest house for public school teachers in its host communities.

Engineer Lin Castro, vice-president for environment and community relations, said CBK Power Company's bottom line was not just about profit. Environment protection and social responsibility were equally important. They found the Education Revolution an ideal way to affirm their commitment to their host communities.

Andy Saracho, the community relations manager and a former business reporter (he teaches Economics and Business Journalism at the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters on weekends), said they had been helping Laguna public schools in various ways even before they joined the revolution.

"But we wanted to help in a more lasting manner, and what better way is there than to bring out the best in our teachers through the Education Revolution?" he said.

CBK Power Company has awarded college scholarships to 26 high-school graduates since last year.

This year, CBK actively participated in the Department of Education's Brigada Eskwela community program.

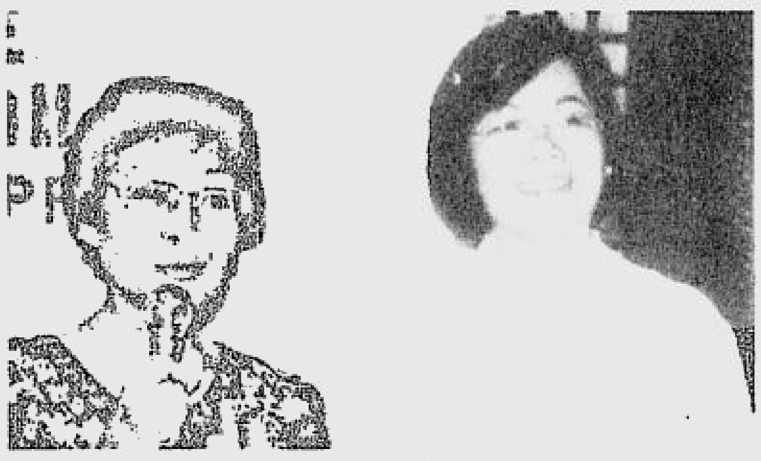
One of the schools CBK supported—Wawa National High School, under principal Nilo de Robles—was cited recently by the DepEd as the most innovative Brigada Eskwela school for establishing the widest network of support from the community.

CBK Power Company is an independent power producer operating a hydroelectric facility in the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan area. It generates 250 megawatts for the Luzon grid.

At the opening of the seminar, assistant superintendent Dr. Cielo Bernardino, representing superintendent Lilia T. Reyes said, "The quality of classroom teaching... is very much dependent upon the quality of teachers... in that school."

She added that nation-building was anchored on education, on how the youth were trained and prepared to become strong citizens.

Computer center donated



LIN Castro (right), CBK vice president for environment and community relations, with Dr. Evelyn Mejillano, FWWPP Mentoring the Mentors national coordinator

As part of its adoption program for Pampanga High School, the PHS'65 Foundation, Inc. inaugurated recently its Computers for Livelihood (CFL) Training Center.

Dr. Imelda Macaspac, PHS principal, welcomed the initiative on behalf of the school.

The alma mater of President Diosdado Macapagal, PHS has seen better days. This motivated PHS'65 to adopt the school. Alumni have been working all year to help their alma mater regain its premier status in Angeles City.

Rene Alarcon, PHS'65 president, said they set up the center to teach Data Encoding and Computer Secretarial courses for students and graduates for free.

The CFL Training Center is just one of PHS'65's Education Revolution projects. Alarcon also said Centro Escolar University, through Foundation for Worldwide People Power (FWWPP) president Maria Lim Ayuyao, donated 20 computer tables to PHS for use in the center.

CEU donated earlier about 500 chairs to the school, also through Alarcon's efforts.

Caloocan joins revolution

Caloocan Schools Division superintendent Elizabeth Manalo has taken steps to improve the quality of education of schools under her care.

She has implemented a pilot Education Revolution School Empowerment program for the entire faculty of Lerma Elementary School led by principal Rose Gutierrez.

Under the Education Revolution banner, Dr. Manalo joined Dr. Eden Kelemen, vice chancellor of the Philippine Women's University, in organizing a pilot School Empowerment session together with Dean Letty Ho of the University of the Philippines College of Education, Dean Clotilde Arcangel of the University of Santo Tomas College of Education, Concepcion Pacia of the Poveda Center for Educators Formation and Education Dean Nelia Prieto of St. Joseph's College.

In a speech delivered for her by Nenita de Vega, DepEd human resources development chief, DepEd National Capital Region director Dr. Corazon D. Santiago said the FWWPP School Empowerment Program was a very welcome development for Caloocan. She enjoined teachers to participate fully so they could get the most benefit from the sessions.

Dr. Santiago said teachers had always lived to make a difference. She called on them to always do their best.

"Do this so that the hosts of heaven will say 'Here lives a great teacher,'" Dr. Santiago said, paraphrasing novelist Jack London.

FWWPP chair Eggie Apostol, in turn, asked educators to rekindle the spirit of People Power by mobilizing their communities for the Education Revolution for the benefit of the children of Caloocan.

Teachers of the city underwent five days of intensive workshops to improve their communication skills and lesson-planning techniques. They also worked through lectures on multiple intelligence and integrated approaches to the Makabayan curriculum.

Well-loved educator Dr. Onofre "Sir Pagsi" Pagsanjan conducted a very touching session on "Teaching as a Mission."

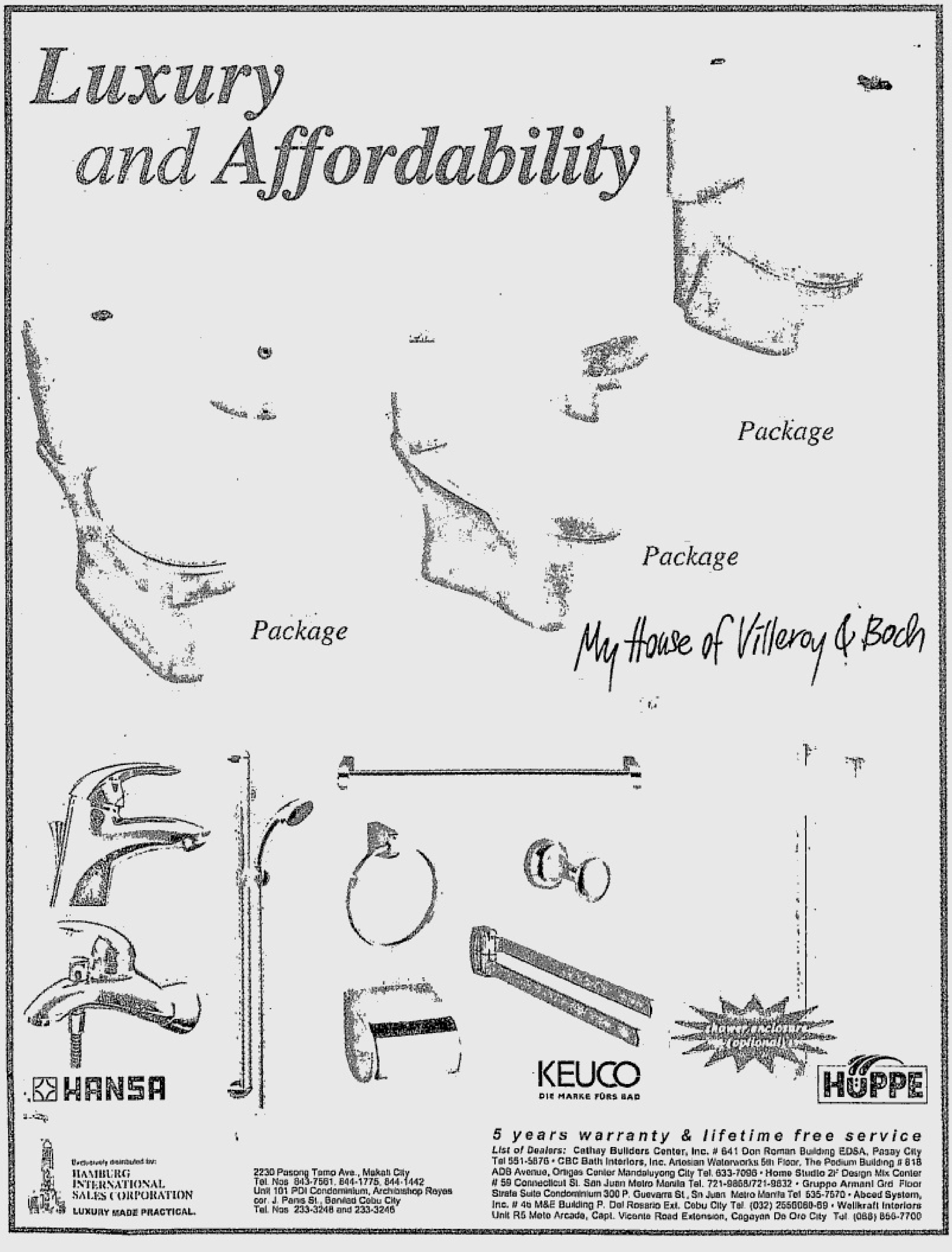
Resource speakers included Dr. Vilma Resuma and Dr. Nenalyn Defensor of UP, Dr. Nilda Sunga of Philippine Normal University, and Teodora Ilago, Imelda Asuncion and Dr. Antonio Torralba of University of Asia and the Pacific and Synergeia.

Observers were Caloocan Schools Division principals Dr. Elizabeth Quezada of Manuel L. Quezon Elementary School, Concepcion Buñag of Caloocan North Elementary School and Carmencita Abel of Marulas Elementary School.

Dr. Flordeliza Mayari, Marikina Schools Division assistant superintendent, and her principals Lourdes L. Larios of Kalumpang Elementary School, Merle C. Papel of Sto. Niño Elementary School and Bella Zaballa of Industrial Valley Elementary School took careful notes of the proceedings.

DepEd Caloocan district supervisors Dr. Rosario G. Ocera, Remedios J. Estrera, Dr. Josefina V. de la Cruz, Dr. Emma T. Sawwan and Estelita Reyes also joined the sessions.

The author is the executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.



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Rosary exhibit goes interactive

THE INTERACTIVE Rosary Exhibit of the Archdiocese of Manila is now going on at Manila Cathedral in Intramuros until Nov. 14.

The exhibit is open from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

The exhibit, developed by the Archdiocese of Manila through the Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission to celebrate the Year of the Holy Rosary as declared by Pope John Paul II to mark his 25th year in the pontificate, was originally mounted at the PNB Finance Center along Diosdado Macapagal Avenue in Pasay City. The exhibit drew more than 60,000 viewers during its three-week extension.

The exhibit features a virtual pilgrimage to popular Marian shrines around the world. It also has a catechetical segment aimed at deepening knowledge of and devotion to the Holy Rosary. Entrance is free.

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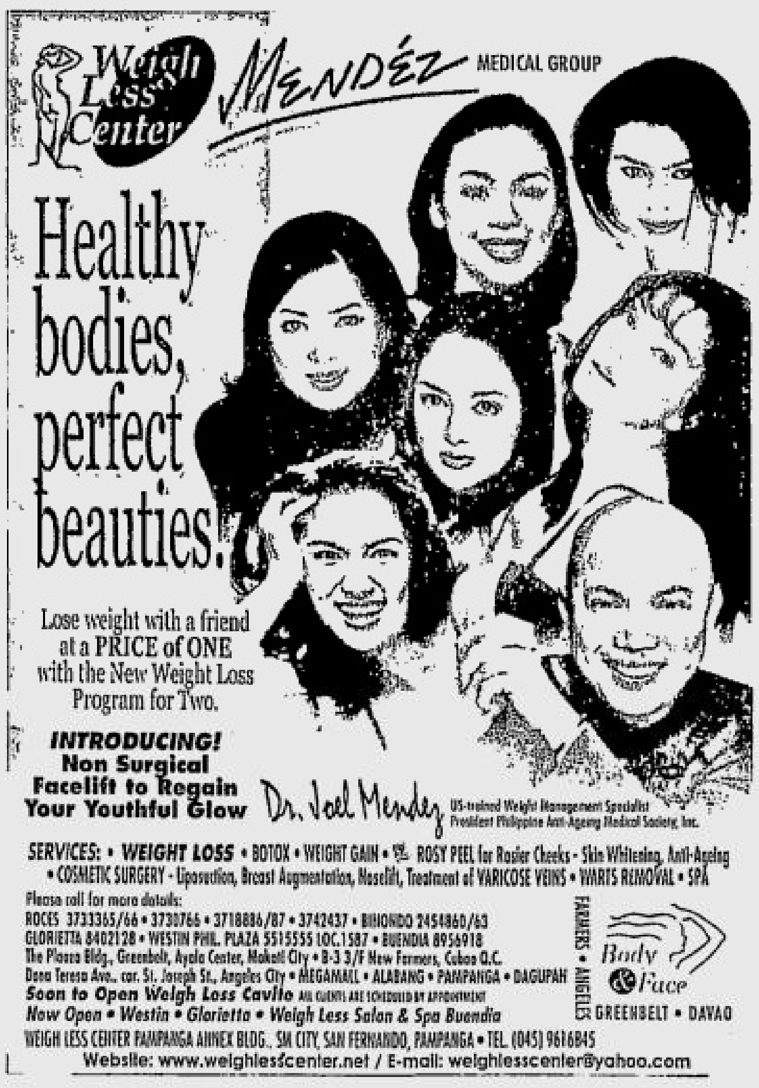
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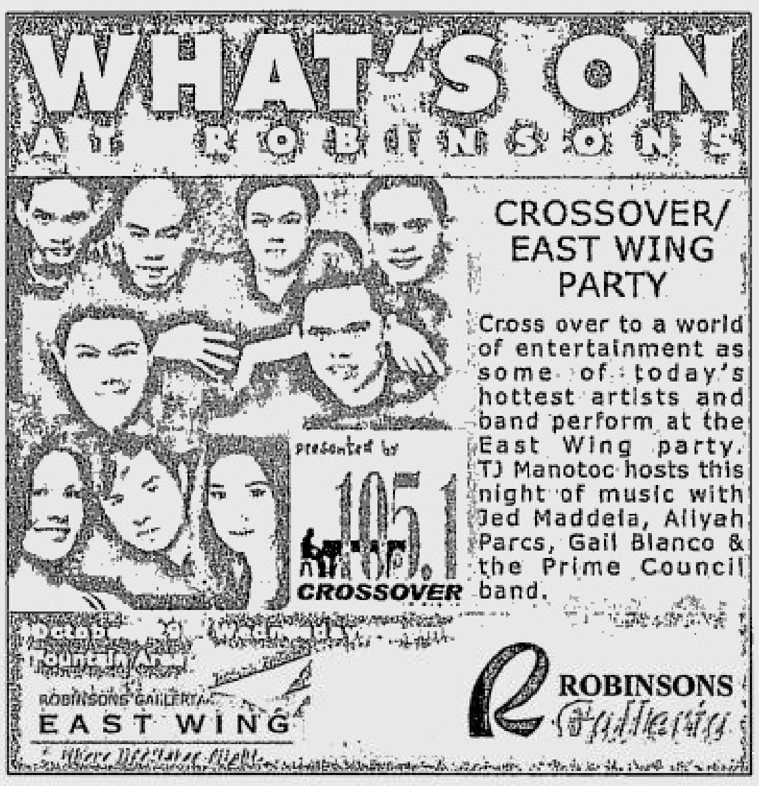
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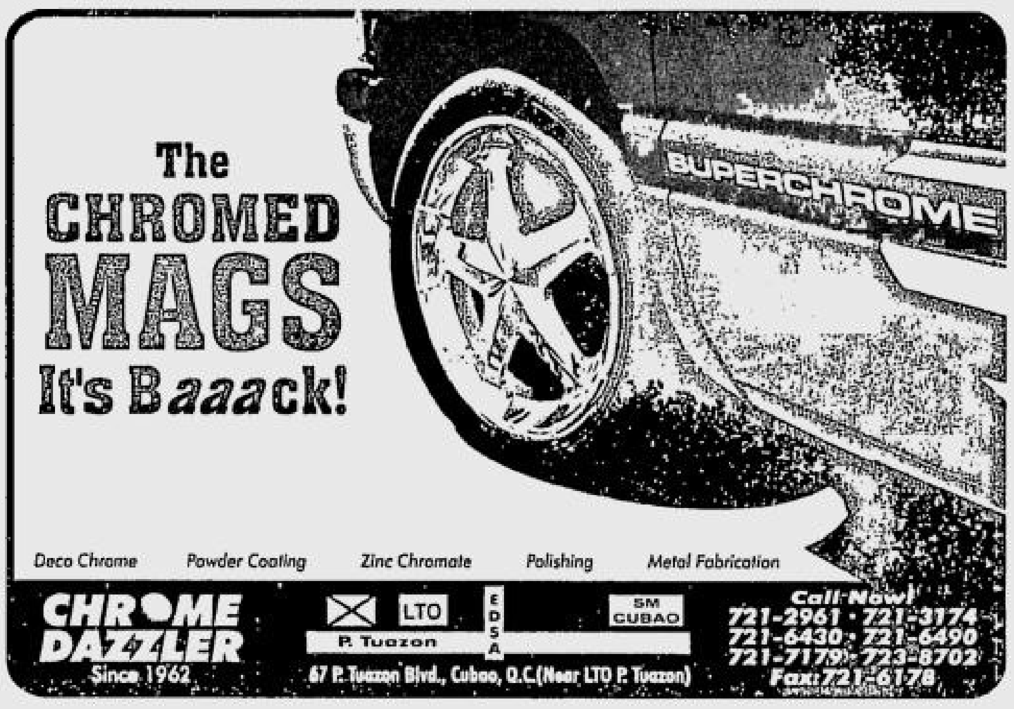
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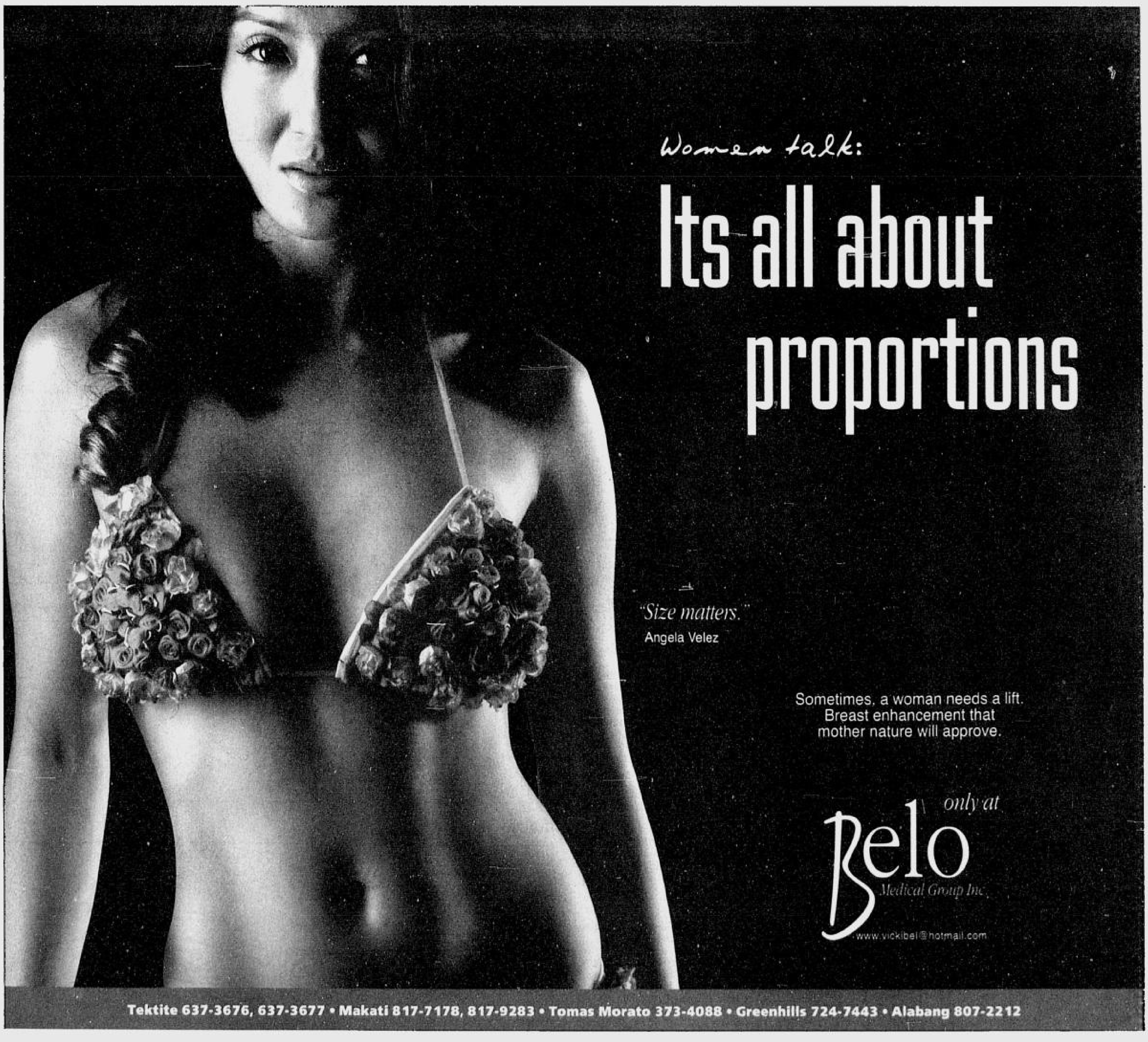
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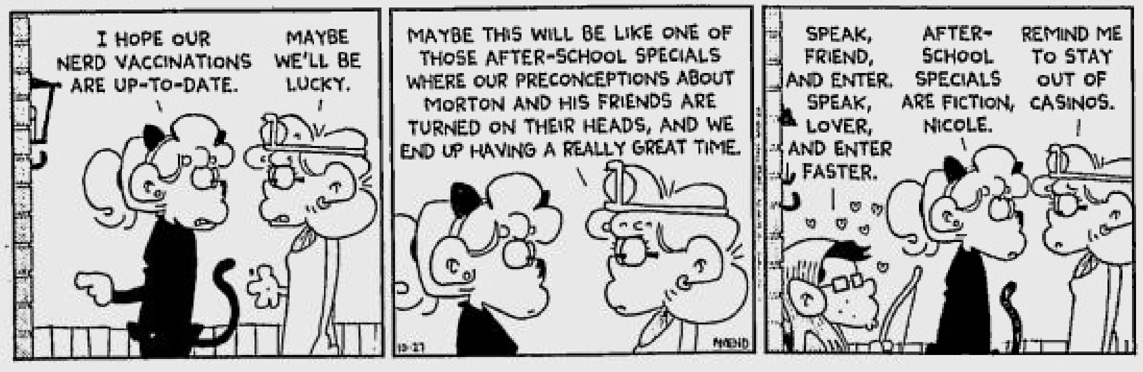
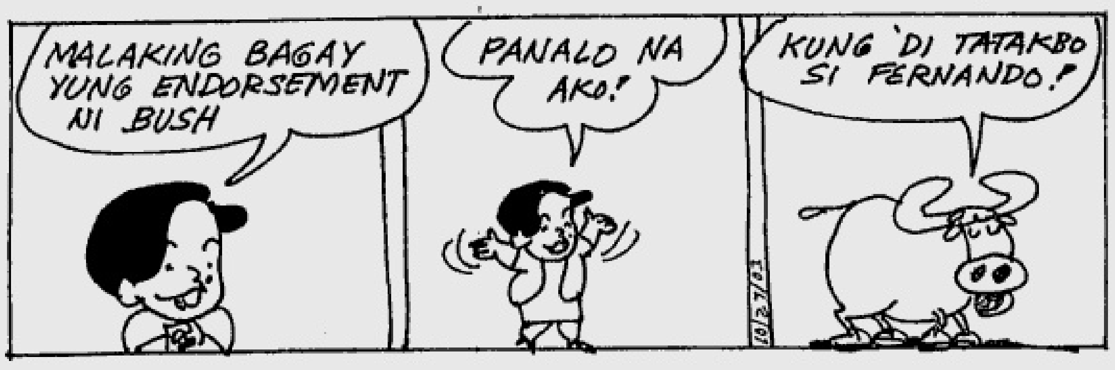

I HOPE OUR NERD VACCINATIONS ARE UP-TO-DATE.
MAYBE WE'LL BE LUCKY.
MAYBE THIS WILL BE LIKE ONE OF THOSE AFTER-SCHOOL SPECIALS WHERE OUR PRECONCEPTIONS ABOUT MORTON AND HIS FRIENDS ARE TURNED ON THEIR HEADS, AND WE END UP HAVING A REALLY GREAT TIME.
SPEAK, FRIEND, AND ENTER. SPEAK, LOVER, AND ENTER FASTER.
AFTER-SCHOOL SPECIALS ARE FICTION, NICOLE.
REMIND ME TO STAY OUT OF CASINOS.
10-27
AMEND

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MALAKING BAGAY YUNG ENDORSEMENT NI BUSH
PANALO NA AKO!
KUNG 'DI TATAKBO SI FERNANDO!
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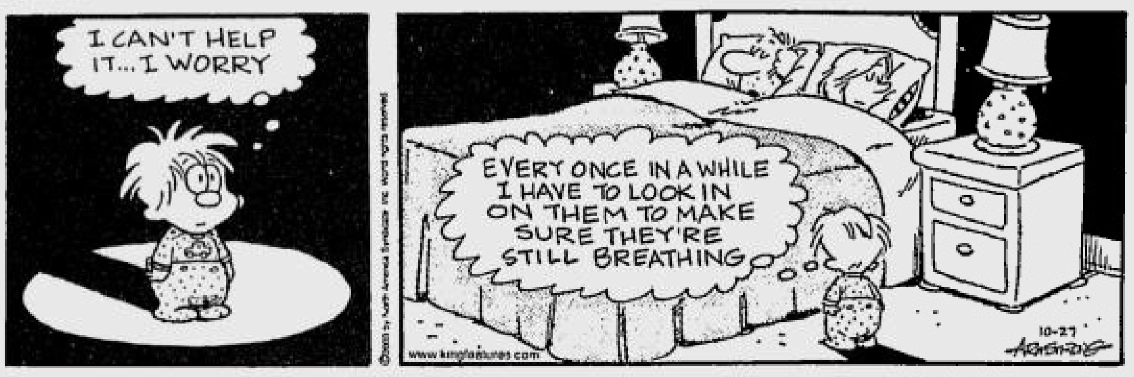
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I CAN'T HELP IT... I WORRY
EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE I HAVE TO LOOK IN ON THEM TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE STILL BREATHING
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ARMSTRONG
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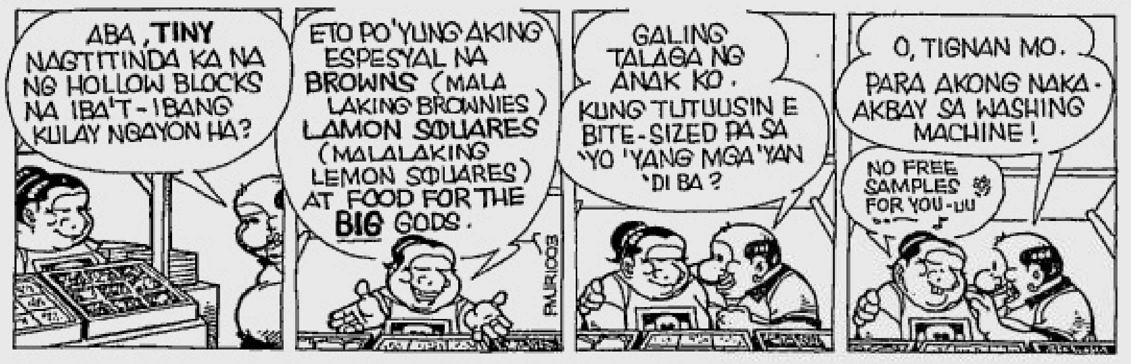
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ABA, TINY NAGTITINDA KA NA NG HOLLOW BLOCKS NA IBA'T-IBANG KULAY NGAYON HA?
ETO PO'YUNG AKING ESPESYAL NA BROWNS (MALA LAKING BROWNIES) LAMON SQUARES (MALALAKING LEMON SQUARES) AT FOOD FOR THE BIG GODS.
GALING TALAGA NG ANAK KO. KUNG TUTUUSIN E BITE-SIZED PA SA 'YO 'YANG MGA 'YAN 'DI BA?
O, TIGNAN MO. PARA AKONG NAKA-AKBAY SA WASHING MACHINE!
NO FREE SAMPLES FOR YOU-UU
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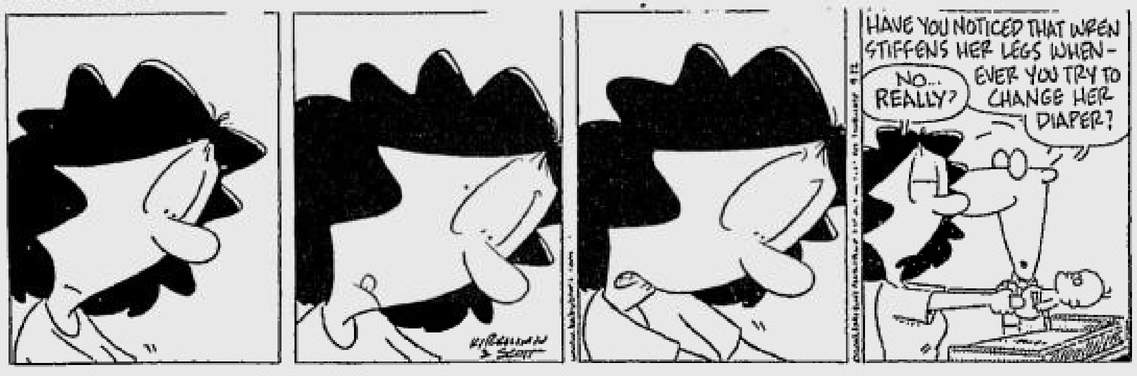
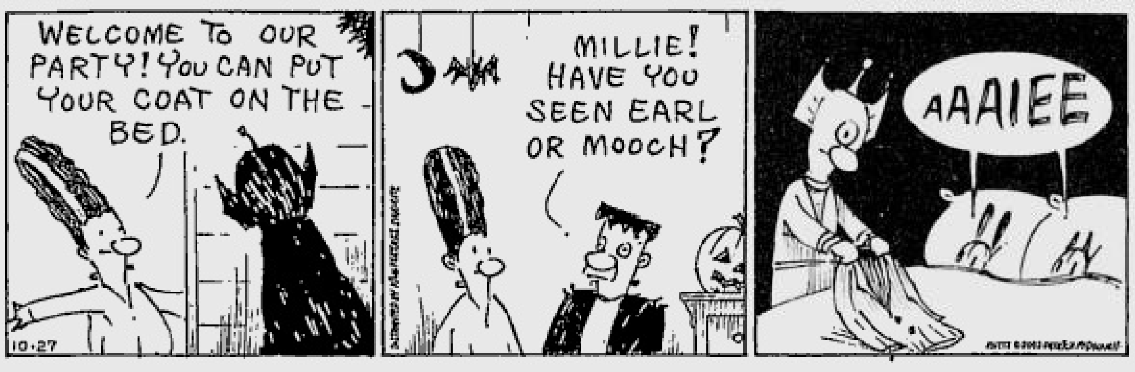
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT WREN STIFFENS HER LEGS WHENEVER YOU TRY TO CHANGE HER DIAPER?
NO... REALLY?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

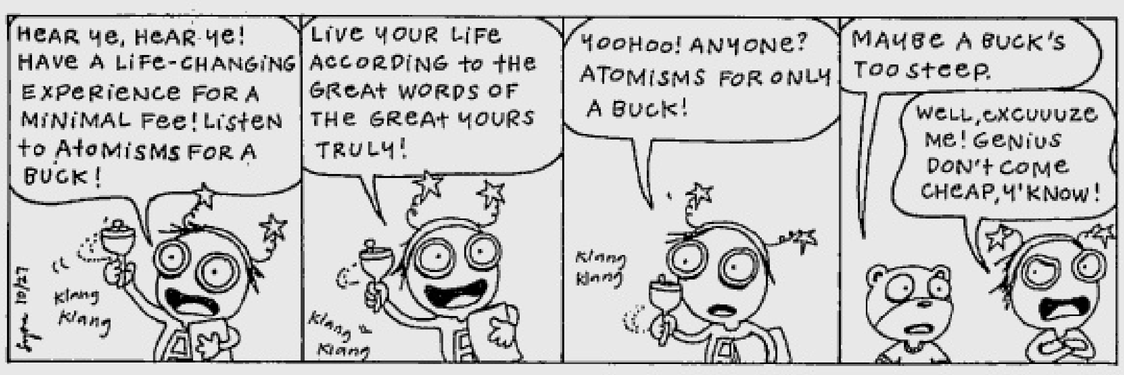
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WELCOME TO OUR PARTY! YOU CAN PUT YOUR COAT ON THE BED.
MILLIE! HAVE YOU SEEN EARL OR MOOCH?
AAAIEE
10-27

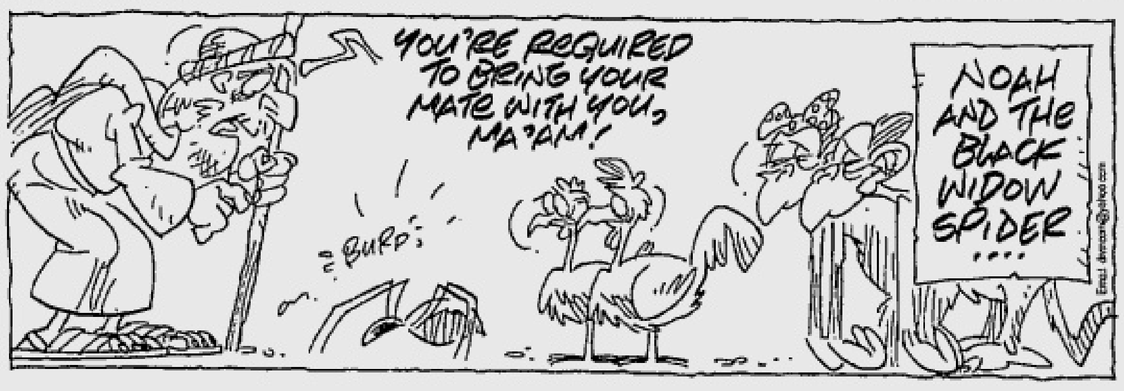
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEAR YE, HEAR YE! HAVE A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE FOR A MINIMAL FEE! LISTEN TO ATOMISMS FOR A BUCK!
Klang Klang
LIVE YOUR LIFE ACCORDING TO THE GREAT WORDS OF THE GREAT YOURS TRULY!
Klang Klang
YOOHOO! ANYONE? ATOMISMS FOR ONLY A BUCK!
Klang Klang
MAYBE A BUCK'S TOO STEEP.
WELL, EXCUUUZE ME! GENIUS DON'T COME CHEAP, Y'KNOW!
10/27

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


YOU'RE REQUIRED TO BRING YOUR MATE WITH YOU, MA'AM!
BURP
NOAH AND THE BLACK WIDOW SPIDER....

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are powerful, energetic and very much alive. Your impulsive, fiery feelings enthuse those around you. Your mere presence can bring shock waves at times. Your bark is louder than your bite, however. You cover a sensitive interior with lighthearted brusqueness. The year ahead focuses on love, romance and social occasions.
Birthdate of: Kelly Osbourne, singer/actress; Roberto Benigni, actor; Theodore Roosevelt, 26th US president.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an excellent day for your sign. You are mentally energetic, eager and willing to tackle difficult problems.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You will definitely speak your mind today. You won't back down from an argument. You easily influence and win over others to your point of view.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're a powerhouse at work today! Nothing can hold you back. You are confident of your beliefs and actions. Go after what you want.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Creative debates about politics or religious subjects are like candy for you today. You somehow dazzle others with your words. You also feel playful and flirtatious!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You will definitely defend your best interests at home or within the family structure today. You know what you want, and you intend to get it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is the kind of day in which you will say what you mean and mean what you say. No two ways about it. You're not looking for a fight, but you won't run away from one either.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You see clearly what must be done at work today. You know how to direct the efforts of others. Because you believe in what you're doing, your words have power now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): No matter how pleasant you look, you have the power of Darth Vader today. No one should cross your path or oppose you. If anyone does, that person is history. You are bold, innovative and daring!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Some quiet thinking could yield some bright ideas today. In all likelihood, these ideas will help you deal with domestic questions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You'll enjoy debating with groups and friends today. You've got the bit in your teeth, and you're not going to let it go. You want to make a point—and you will do so very skillfully.

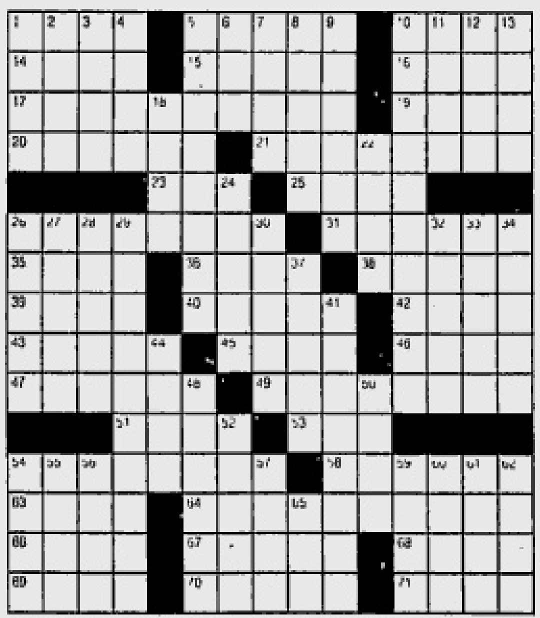
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Today is the day to talk to the boss. You can't help but impress important people today. You are intelligent, and today it shows! Milk this for all it's worth.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day for public speaking, acting, sales and any kind of public presentation. You feel strong, confident and sure of yourself.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Bonny girl
5 Tender places
10 Listen to
14 __ of Man
15 Threefold
16 Turkey-label letters
17 Harmonica
19 Liquid weather
20 Crocheted coverlet
21 Dressing-down
23 Floral neckwear
25 TV-dinner holder
26 Put wrongly
31 Type of cat or goat
35 Contemporary Babylonia
36 Do goos
38 Sand hills
39 List of dishes
40 Durkheim or Zola
42 Charlie Brown expletive
43 Brought to a close
45 Any time now
46 Calamitous
47 Take out the pips
49 Balderdash
51 Greatest Olympian
53 Green legume
54 Beneath the waves
58 Santa's ride
63 Volvo rival
64 Fipple flute
66 Height: pref.
67 Disunite
68 Layer of impurities
69 Pose like Charles Atlas
70 Nuisances
71 Units of resistance

DOWN
1 Succotash bean
2 Starting from
3 Belt
4 Adam's third
5 Ancient period
6 Legendary Bruin
7 Equips
8 Pass into law
9 Leon lady
10 Barrel organ
11 Morales of "N.Y.P.D Blue"
12 Point after deuce, perhaps
13 Called
18 Cease
22 Real estate
24 Particulars
26 Acted silently
27 Dunne of Hollywood
28 Uses emery
29 Accordion
30 T.S. from St. Louis
32 Where lovers walk?
33 Stylishly out-of-date
34 Plus feature
37 Beach Boys hit, "__ John B"
41 Snares
44 Buck or hart
48 Squabble
50 Burkina Faso neighbor
52 River of Rouen
54 Mil. wing
55 Sodium chloride
56 Be gutsy
57 Picnic pests
59 Exxon, once
60 "The Seven-Year __"
61 Down at the mouth
62 Skirt edges
65 Emma Thompson film



By John Underwood
New York, NY

10/27/03

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

N	E	P	A	L	■	C	I	G	A	R	■	P	T	A
O	V	E	R	P	R	O	D	U	C	E	■	R	A	N
R	E	P	A	G	I	N	A	T	E	D	■	E	N	D
■	■	■	B	A	T	S	■	■	■	■	E	D	G	E
M	O	B	■	■	A	U	G	U	S	T	N	E	S	S
I	N	A	P	T	■	M	A	N	U	A	L	S	■	■
T	E	R	R	A	■	M	O	D	E	R	A	T	O	R
T	U	B	E	S	■	A	L	I	■	T	R	I	B	E
S	P	E	C	T	A	T	E	S	■	A	G	N	E	S
■	■	R	E	E	L	E	R	S	■	R	E	E	S	E
S	U	P	P	R	E	S	S	O	R	■	■	D	E	W
T	R	O	T	■	■	■	■	L	A	S	T	■	■	■
A	I	L	■	M	E	G	A	V	I	T	A	M	I	N
L	E	E	■	I	M	O	G	E	N	E	C	O	C	A
E	L	S	■	D	U	P	E	D	■	M	O	P	E	Y

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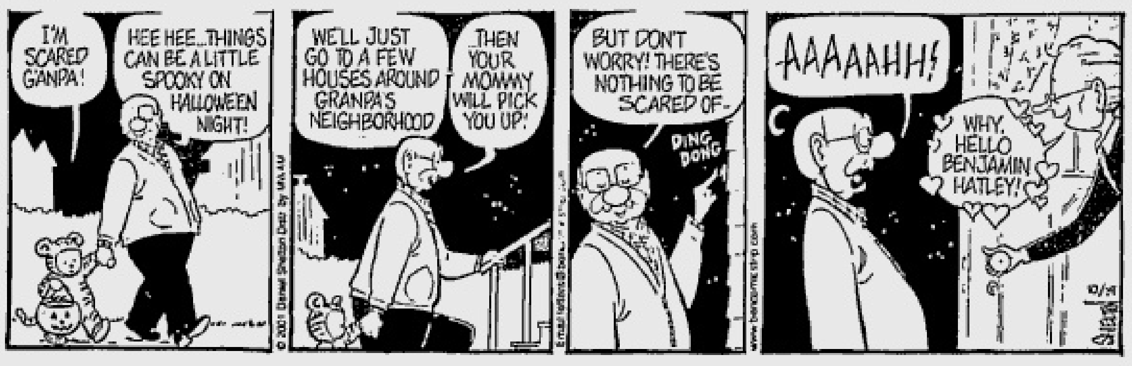
10/27/03

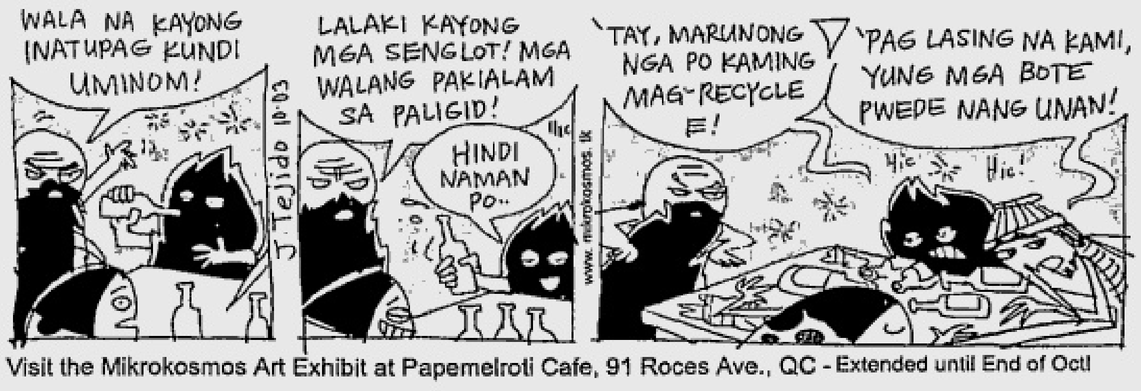
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M SCARED GANPA!
HEE HEE... THINGS CAN BE A LITTLE SPOOKY ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT!
WE'LL JUST GO TO A FEW HOUSES AROUND GRANPA'S NEIGHBORHOOD
...THEN YOUR MOMMY WILL PICK YOU UP!
BUT DON'T WORRY! THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF-
DING DONG
AAAAAHH!
WHY, HELLO BENJAMIN HATLEY!
www.benscomicstrip.com

MIKROKOSMOS

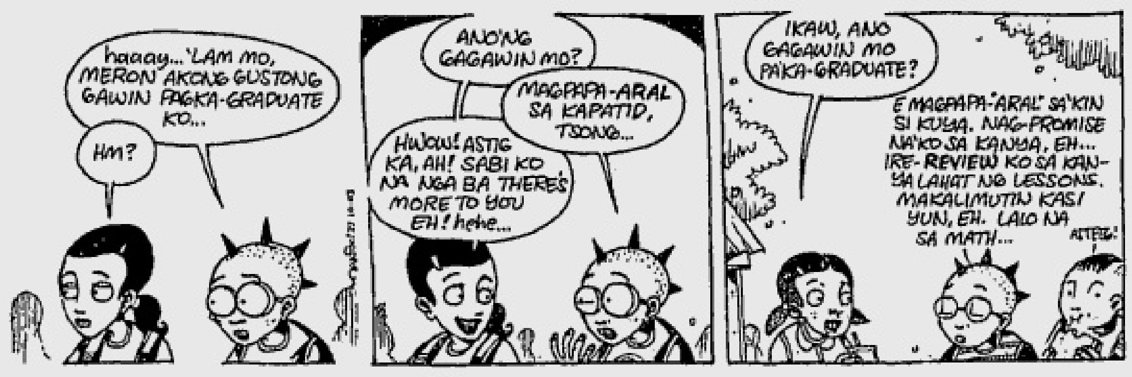
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


WALA NA KAYONG INATUPAG KUNDI UMINOM!
LALAKI KAYONG MGA SENGLOT! MGA WALANG PAKIALAM SA PALIGID!
HINDI NAMAN PO..
'TAY, MARUNONG NGA PO KAMING MAG-RECYCLE E!
'PAG LASING NA KAMI, YUNG MGA BOTE PWEDE NANG UNAN!
Hic Hic!
J Tejido 10·03
www.mikrokosmos.tk

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Extended until End of Oct!

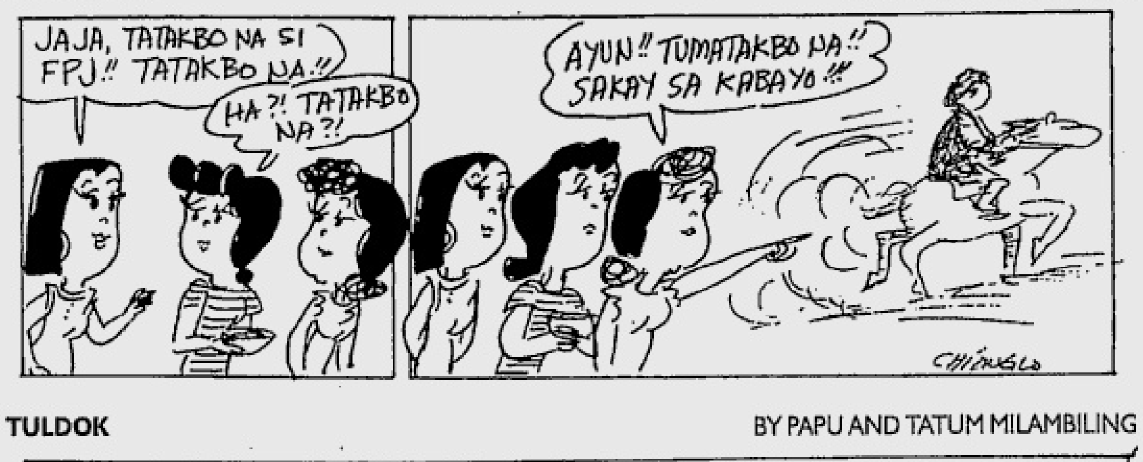
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


haaay... 'LAM mo, MERON AKONG GUSTONG GAWIN PAGKA-GRADUATE KO...
HM?
ANO'NG GAGAWIN MO?
MAGPAPA-ARAL SA KAPATID, TSONG...
HWOW! ASTIG KA, AH! SABI KO NA NGA BA THERE'S MORE TO YOU EH! hehe...
IKAW, ANO GAGAWIN MO PAKA-GRADUATE?
E MAGPAPA-"ARAL" SA'KIN SI KUYA. NAG-PROMISE NA'KO SA KANYA, EH... IRE-REVIEW KO SA KANYA LAHAT NG LESSONS. MAKALIMUTIN KASI YUN, EH. LALO NA SA MATH...
ATTEE!

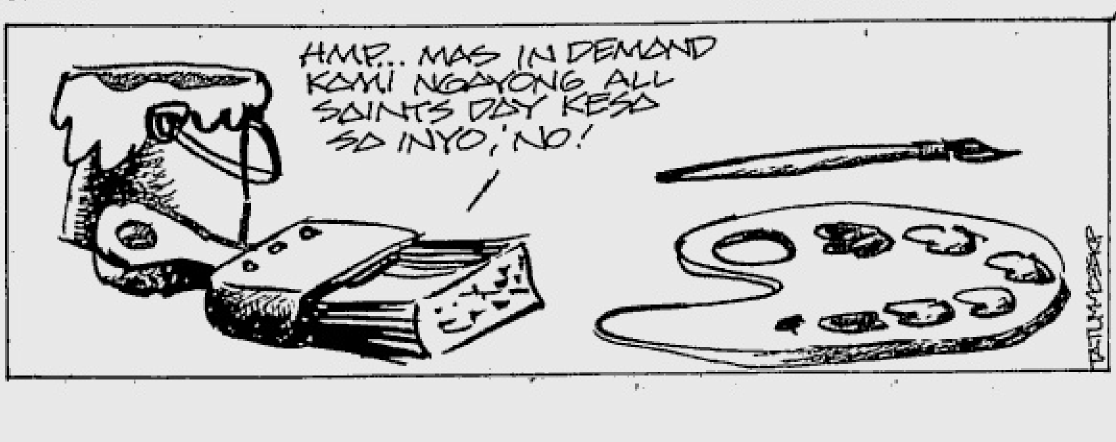
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, TATAKBO NA SI FPJ!! TATAKBO NA!!
HA?! TATAKBO NA?!
AYUN!! TUMATAKBO NA!! SAKAY SA KABAYO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HMP.. MAS IN DEMAND KAMI NGAYONG ALL SAINTS DAY KESA SA INYO, NO!
TATUM

Lázaro Francisco doesn't live here anymore

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

BYPASSED every year by the National Artist Awards Committee, Lázaro Francisco, (1898-1980), the great Tagalog novelist, now has a more durable institution dedicated to his memory: the Museong Lázaro Francisco. It is located at 982 Daan Rizal, Barangay Bonifacio, in the adopted city of the writer, Cabanatuan, capital of Nueva Ecija.

The city government already has an elementary school named after the novelist.

CABANATUAN City's Lázaro Francisco, Tagalog novelist (1898-1980)

Francisco was actually from Orani, Bataan, but his parents, being Methodists, reportedly incurred the ire of some of the town's overzealous Catholics. So the Franciscos migrated to Cabanatuan where Lázaro (Ka Saro to the younger writers) settled down, married and wrote his major works.

Francisco's first wife was Pelagia Duran, who gave him four children. A few years after she died, Francisco married Trinidad Arrieta, Miss Nueva Ecija and cited by the Philippines Free Press magazine in December 1926 as one of the reigning beauties in the land.

Trinidad (who passed away in 2000 at the age of 93), a model stepmother, bore Lázaro eight children.

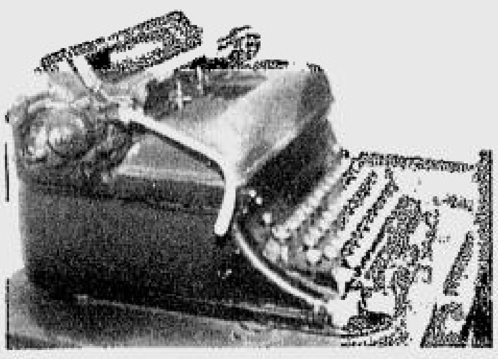
The Franciscos are a remarkable family. All of the children are successful professionals except for three who died tragically before their time: Lázaro Jr., freshman law student at University of the Philippines, killed in the Bataan frontlines in 1942; Isagani I, died in infancy; and Hernani, a third year AB student and prize-winning swimmer drowned in Pampanga River in 1965 while trying to save a friend.

The triple tragedies left their mark on the author, who transformed his grief into deeply felt fiction.

Twelve children—and 12 novels.

Serialized

The novels of Lázaro Francisco were serialized in magazine form, mostly in Liwayway, from 1925 to 1962. Six of these have been published in book form in recent years, and are still available in bookstores.



THE REMINGTON typerwriter which churned out his outstanding novels and other literary works.

The Ateneo de Manila University Press has come out with three of Francisco's finest works: "Sugat ng Alaala," "Maganda Pa ang Daigdig" and "Daluyong."

The University of the Philippines Press has issued reprint editions of "Amá" and "Ilaw sa Hilaga" and, just recently, "Singsing na Pangkasal."

Francisco was both realist and romantic. His love stories unfolded against a social background, which could be unequal relations with the US (he was a nationalist), war, rebellion, injustice and peasant unrest.

He also dramatized the Christian injunction to love one another (the Bible being a chief inspiration).

The 12 original manuscripts of the novels are now housed in the Museo, which was inaugurated and blessed recently. Cabanatuan City Mayor Jay Vergara and Vice Mayor Raoul Mendoza cut the ribbon and unveiled a marker to Kawika, an organization founded by Ka Saro in 1958.

The ceremonies were attended by city and Department of Education officials, professors, heads of colleges and universities in the province, and friends and admirers of the author.

Apart from the original drafts of the novels and old letters, the exhibits include rare photos of the writer, rare articles and publications about him, books given by fellow writers, plaques and medals, his old *escritorio* or writing desk, and his antique Remington typewriter.

THE WRITER'S *escritorio*

CABINET contains original manuscripts of the 12 novels of Ka Saro.

The Museo is managed by the Lázaro Francisco Foundation, with Justice Cezar Francisco as president, Dr. Floriño A. Francisco as vice president and professor Lucila Francisco-Aleja as curator. All are children of the novelist.

One of the objectives of the Museo is to sponsor contests in literature and the other arts "on themes that project the ideas espoused by Lázaro Francisco toward the development of a strong Filipino nationalism."

In view of the subservient pro-American policy of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration, this last is important.

THE UNVEILING of the Museo marker, with lawyer Rafael Francisco, Armando Aleja, Cabanatuan City Vice Mayor Raoul Mendoza, Mayor Jay Vergara, Justice Cezar Francisco and Dr. Floriño A. Francisco

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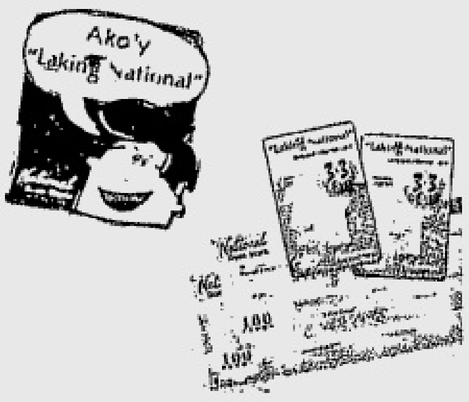
Bookstore loyalty program marks 3rd year

NATIONAL Book Store's loyalty program, Laking National, celebrates its third anniversary with two great promos this October.

Until Oct. 31, Laking National Card (LNC) members get a free T-shirt for every P1,000 purchase.

LNC members can also take part in the Refer-a-Friend promotion. Until Nov. 30, every successful referral made by an existing LNC member, both old and new members instantly receive free items and qualify for a raffle.

Ten members get the chance to win P5,000 worth of NBS gift certificates and another 10 will be drawn to win Internet gift certificates.



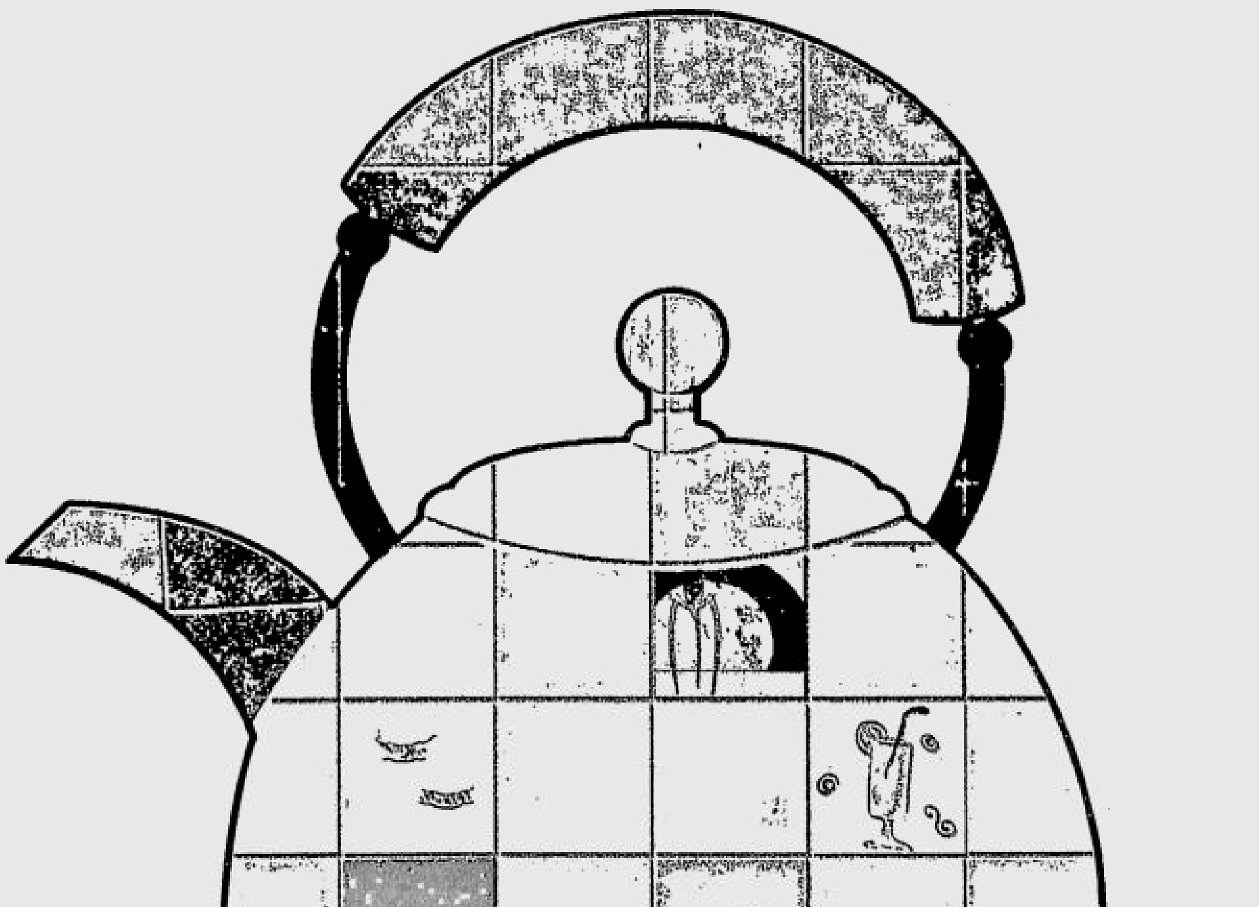
Top Singapore poet Edwin Thumboo lectures in Manila

ONE of Singapore's distinguished poets, Edwin N. Thumboo, will deliver a lecture on South East Asian Poetry on Oct 29, 3 p.m., at University of Santo Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Studies (UST-CCWS), St. Raymund's Bldg. (AB-Commerce), UST, España, Manila.

Joining the lecture are CCWS director Ophelia Alcantara-Dimalanta, National Artist F. Sionil Jose, poet Cirilo F. Bautista and the junior associates of the CCWS.

Thumboo is emeritus professor and director of The Centre for the Arts, National University of Singapore. He has contributed to the Singapore art scene mainly in the area of literature and is the author of four collections of poems.

The lecture is open to the public. Call 7313101 local 8281.



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THE Tile Company

John Grisham fumbles the ball in 'Bleachers'

BLEACHERS
John Grisham

"Bleachers"
By John Grisham
(Doubleday, New York, 2003, 183 pages)

By Ruel S. De Vera

REVIEW

IN AMERICAN football, the quarterback tries to catch the defense off guard by throwing different looks at them: a pass here, a run there, a bootleg thrown somewhere in between. In a way, that's what John Grisham has been doing as an author. The best-selling author of courtroom dramas like "The Firm," Grisham has recently been engaging in literary experiments such as the critically lauded American saga "A Painted House."

After the quirky but enjoyable twists of the legal thriller "The King of Torts," Grisham essays his ode to the gridiron with "Bleachers," a sentimental drama of football stars long after their playing days are over. As always, there is something this brotherhood in pads has kept secret all these years. Until now.

In the town of Messina, football is the town obsession and coach Eddie Rake is the town's treasure. A strict, imposing figure, Rake had molded the Messina Spartans into a high school football power for decades. But the years had been unkind to Rake, as the accidental death of a player eventually led to his firing, leaving him embittered. Now, he was dying from cancer, and all of a sudden, Spartans from years past find themselves drawn back to Rake Field, to Messina for a mournful gathering.

The return trip is most painful for Neely Crenshaw. The Spartans' star quarterback had left Messina with the expectation of becoming a pro, but an injury in college ended that dream prematurely. Crenshaw kind of lost his way after that, but he never returned to Messina for 15 years.

Mystery

Crenshaw left after a stunning 1987 championship game in which the Spartans came back from a huge deficit. Yet Rake and the other coaches stayed away from the team after halftime. Crenshaw played with a bloodied face and a broken hand. There were rumors that something had happened during the lemontime break. But no one was talking. After the improbable win, the Spartans raced off the field and didn't come out of the locker room until everyone had gone away. And they kept their secrets. Until now.

As Rake advances closer to death, his former players gather without bidding in Rake Field's bleachers, just the jocks, recounting their lives as young athletic demigods in Messina. Some have done well, others haven't. One has even gone to prison. But "Bleachers" is all about how football—and Eddie Rake—has been both fleeting and timeless for them.

For the most part, "Bleachers" is about Crenshaw, who now seeks to catch up on all he's been running away from. Most of all, he has to deal with the lost dream of greatness and the girl that got away, Cameron Lane. "When you're famous at eighteen, you spend the rest of your life fading away. You dream of the glory days, but you know they're gone forever," Crenshaw muses. And while the broken-down quarterback makes for a sympathetic protagonist, Crenshaw is just too much of a cardboard figure to sincerely like.

Then there is Rake. Though he never actually appears in "Bleachers," Grisham goes the extra yard to try and make him a larger-than-life figure. But in the post-Bobby Knight era, Rake feels like an anachronism and a derivative figure. Even more than Crenshaw, Rake is a by-the-numbers creation, a throwback in more ways than one.

"Bleachers," thankfully and inexorably moves to its end zone with an overly drawn-out funeral attended by the entire town as well as some forced revelations, chief of all is Crenshaw finally coming clean with what really happened in 1987.

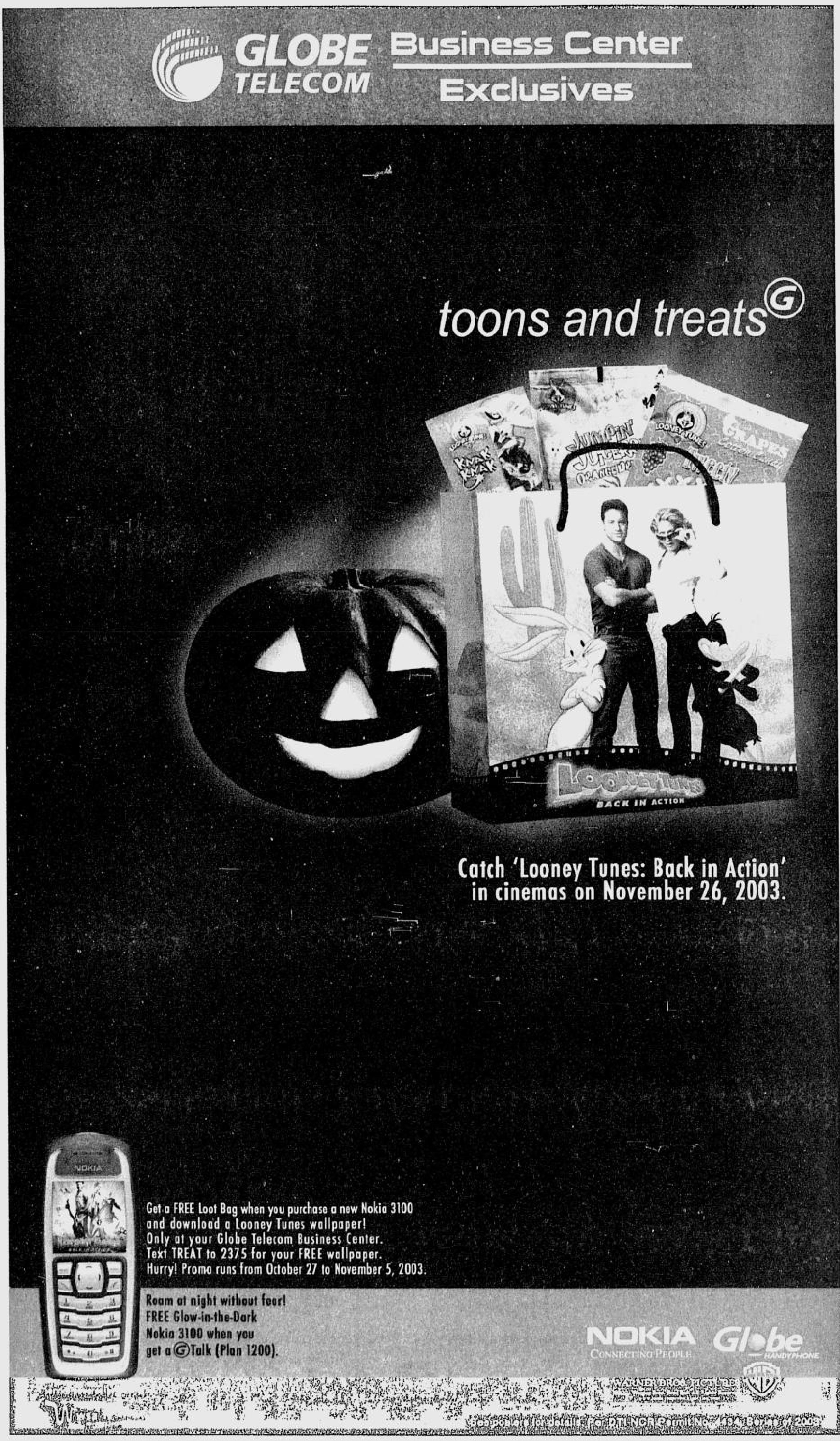
If only all of it were compelling. Instead, "Bleachers" blitzes readers with its cornball rhetoric, expecting readers to buy into the entire football-as-a-religion premise. Aside from the uninteresting characters, "Bleachers" just doesn't contain anything genuinely surprising. It's a trick play that's been telegraphed from the first snap.

It certainly doesn't help that "Bleachers" is three-fourths dialogue, most of it wistful and cobwebbed recollections of Messina's pigskin achievements. As short as the book is, the plot plods, almost as if trying to milk the clock.

It is clear that Grisham, a football player in his youth, wanted to recreate the life-changing power of the sport on young men and the eventual aftereffects of athletic fame. But in this paean to players, Grisham fumbles badly. While his literary experiments have been sometimes welcome, "Bleachers" seems terribly self-indulgent and run-of-the-mill.

After the time he spent away from writing courtroom thrillers, perhaps it is time for John Grisham to return to the strength of his game and come up with a novel that everybody can root for, whether they're in the front row or way back in the cheap seats.

Available in hardcover from National Bookstore and Power Books.



Catch 'Looney Tunes: Back in Action' in cinemas on November 26, 2003.

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See posters for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 434 Series of 2003.

New Age fantasy novel released

The Moon Child
by Alex Roces

RECENTLY launched at Power Books Specialty Store is the debut novel of talented writer Alex Roces, "The Moon Child."

The book is an engaging yarn, a mythic-fantasy tale of love and magic, passion and betrayal. Maria, the Moon Child, is an outcast from barrio Malana. She is feared and shunned because of her moonpower, the psychic ability to communicate with enchanted spirits and see the future in dreams and visions.

Two men fall in love with her: Arturo the Barrio Captain, a man of earthly power and authority; and Juanito, the Charmer of the Groves, a man of magic and mystery.

When Maria is forced to choose between them tragedy occurs and their lives become entangled as they journey through a dark labyrinth of emotions.

A powerful, poignant and provocative story, "The Moon Child" has garnered rave reviews. Critic Cindy Penn of MidWest Book Reviews describes it as, "Like The Celestine Prophecy... Roces also inspires improvement, growth and honesty, in addition to examining the nature of truth and love."

Pat H. Fredeman, author of "Paradise Regained," says, "Mr. Roces' presentation reveals the presence of a real voice, a rarity in contemporary literature."

Published in the United States, the novel reflects the author's own interests in mythology, psychology, New Age spirituality and mysticism.

He says, " I wrote the novel with the idea of expressing certain spiritual themes but essentially the novel is about spiritual love between soulmates. Also, I wanted to express the idea that women are the true saviors of the world; in a sense that they have it within themselves to truly make the world a better place."

Call the Power Books customer service hotline at 8444455 or e-mail ibid@powerbooks.com.ph.